

Just Who Was Stew?

Born in Neptune City, New Jersey, Stew Tweed spent his early childhood in Newport News, Virginia. When he was six, Stew's family migrated north to the seaport city of Baltimore, Maryland. Following graduation from high school, Stew continued north up the eastern seaboard to Massachusetts, where he attended Springfield College, earning a BS in Biology in 1967. Exposed to some freshwater fish and other marine studies at college, it wasn't until after he received his degree and headed home again to Maryland, that Stew's interest in oysters and shellfish was spawned. During a six-month stint working on an oyster project at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Lab, Stew heard about the oyster research being done at Rutgers University and its Shellfish Lab in New Jersey and decided to journey back to his native state. He worked at Rutgers as a teaching assistant for two years, and in 1970, began a research internship in oyster culture at the New Jersey Oyster Research Laboratory (since renamed the Haskin Shellfish Research Lab) at Bivalve. During that four-year internship, Stew worked with one of the most renowned and respected oyster researchers in the scientific community, Dr. Hal Haskin, who he credited with encouraging and inspiring his own work with oysters and shellfish.

In 1977, Rutgers was in the process of expanding its Advisory Service Program and looking for a Marine Agent to set up a field office for the three southernmost New Jersey counties and Stew was the perfect candidate for the job.

While oysters were always the real pearl of interest for Stew, he also enjoyed the diversity of his job, hands-on, day-to-day contact with the commercial fishing community, and welcomed the challenges of working with the many sectors he served.

Stew's efforts to enhance oyster populations, which included management and grow-out techniques, the quest for disease-resistant oysters, and enhancing natural populations were among his many legacies to the revitalization of the State's oyster industry. He also helped develop and launch the State's first crab shedding facility which eventually grew into a successful commercial enterprise.

Stew was also very successful organizing a number of certified safety training, seafood safety (HACCP) and harbor management courses. More importantly he was successful in getting the commercial fishing community to enthusiastically comply and cooperate with meeting ever-changing federal requirements and regulations.

Educating and interesting young people in marine science and the environment eventually became one of Stew's passions. He started the Blue Claw 4-H Marine Science Club, working with literally hundreds of kids tagging horse shoe crabs, building a boat, building and tending crab shedding tank exhibits, seining, and developing oyster culture projects. He spent countless hours helping to organize and conduct the NJ Marine Science Weekend, teacher workshops and numerous field trips and programs for students on the Delaware Bay. Stew was the impetus for the highly successful NJ 4-H Marine Science Project Guide and in 1987 received the NJ 4-H Agents Association Educator of the Year Award for his numerous contributions to educating youth and adults in the marine field.

Stew also received the Cape May County Board of Agriculture's Distinguished Service Award in 2005 and after retiring from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, remained active with the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program as a consultant until he became ill in 2006.

Remember Tweed



& Plant the Seed!

*The Stew Tweed
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Scholarship Fund*



The Stew Tweed Fisheries & Aquaculture Scholarship Fund

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) and its New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program have established a scholarship fund to honor the memory of Stewart MacMaster Tweed who served as a Marine Agent for the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Service between 1978 and 2005. Stew Tweed touched the lives of countless people, from world-class researchers to the baymen on the Delaware and the commercial fishermen on the docks of Cape May, during his 27-year career.

The scholarship is intended to perpetuate Stew's dedication for taking fisheries and marine-related technology and scientific information and finding ways to apply them to the real world of shellfish aquaculture and commercial fisheries, and his commitment to educating students of all levels about sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Two scholarships will be awarded annually to support one graduating high-school senior and one undergraduate/graduate student pursuing studies, or an outstanding research or technology project focusing on fisheries or aquaculture. NJMSC and the scholarship fund partners and benefactors believe the Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund will become a long-term source for helping to cultivate future leaders for New Jersey's fisheries and aquaculture industries.

“ I was on the search committee that hired Stew in 1978 and he worked tirelessly in the late 70s and early 80s to build the Sea Grant Extension Program in New Jersey. Stew was rock solid and the steady force on our early extension staff. As all who knew him will testify, Stew was passionate about oysters (from biology to grow out systems to marketing) and soon established himself as the authority on the subject in New Jersey. He was truly dedicated to his work and was the type of field agent who lived his job and loved every minute of it. Although he spent a great deal of his youth in Baltimore, he adopted South Jersey as home and became an institution in Cape May County and along the Delaware River where he was known by all associated with marine industries. His territory included Cape May, a large commercial port and his clientele included the fishing industry in Cape May. Establishing a rapport with the industry back in the late 70s was not easy, but Stew succeeded in large part because his work ethic and dedication was appreciated and respected by the industry. Stew is part of a cadre of early Sea Grant extension pioneers, who paved the way for all of us.”

James Murray - former Marine Agent and Director of the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program, now Deputy Director for the NOAA National Sea Grant Program

The Goal for Year One

The goal for the initial year of the Stew Tweed Fisheries and Aquaculture Scholarship Fund is to raise a total of \$25,000 by the end of 2008, enough to fully establish, operate and support the fund so scholarships can be awarded for an initial ten-year period. Beginning in 2008 we would like to award one \$1,000 scholarship to a high-school graduating senior and \$1,500 to an undergraduate/graduate student. When the fund reaches and exceeds the first-year goal, it is our hope to improve the scholarship program by either increasing the amount of the individual scholarships and/or extending the duration of the scholarship program.

If you would like to be part of the Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund and help promote the project, be part of an in-kind, or dollar-for-dollar match event, or distribute scholarship fund brochures, please contact

*Kim Kosko
Director of Communications
732-872-1300 x 18 or email kkosko@njmsc.org*

Yes, I'd like to help plant the seed for the future of New Jersey's Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries by supporting the Stew Tweed Fisheries and Aquaculture Scholarship Fund. Please accept my donation of: _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 (Other, check enclosed)

Make checks payable to The NJMSC Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund.

Please detach this form and mail it with your donation to:

New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Building #22, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732

All donations of \$50 or more will receive a Remember Tweed and Plant the Seed T-Shirt.

Indicate Size: _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Notify me of any special scholarship project fundraising events and activities _____ Yes _____ No

Did you know?

Many companies offer a matching gift program for donations made by their employees to eligible charities, foundations, etc. This means your employer may match your donation, dollar for dollar or more, to the Stew Tweed Fisheries and Aquaculture Scholarship Fund. Please ask your employer if they have a matching gift program and what the guidelines are for having the matching funds sent to the Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund.