



2014



Paul Sewall



Paul Sewall was born April 18th, 1952 to Reginald and Teresa Sewall. He grew up in Stonington. He went fishing with his Dad where he began his love of the ocean and lobstering.

Paul received his first boat, along with a few traps, as a graduation present from his parents. He named it the "Wendy E." He named his second boat the "Knotty Lady". He later earned his Captains license and became the Captain of the "Finest Kind", a lobster boat which he was able to take paying customers on.

Paul served as first mate on the sailing schooners "Rachel", "Ebenezer", and "Harvey Gamage" out of Key West, FL. It was on the Harvey Gamage that he met the chef and love of his life, Corinne. They were married in 1988. After the birth of their daughter, Lexi, they moved back home to Deer Isle.

Paul returned to lobstering in his own boat, the "Franny Ellen". He hoped to have Corinne fish with him but she wasn't interested in the stern man job. Lexi thought it'd be fun to help bait pockets, but that lasted for about 2 pockets.

Paul fished until he wasn't able to due to illness. Paul died May 14th, 2005 at the age of 53, after a courage battle with a brain tumor.

In 2006, the Zone C Lobster Hatchery was dedicated to Paul with the words "He loved being able to fish from this Island so much and our hopes are that the community effort with the Hatchery will be a part of ensuring that privilege continues for many generations."

We are proud to induct Paul Sewall into the 2014 Fishermen's Hall of Fame.

Gerry Heanssler

On September 5th, 1944 Gerry Heanssler was born to Clifford and Mary Heanssler in Bristol, Connecticut. Gerry has a sister, Sandra, and a brother, Dick. As a young Family, they traveled back and forth to Connecticut quite frequently to visit Nana Stanek. They enjoyed the time at the bar and grill she owned called "the Stanek Tavern".

At the age of 5, Gerry started fishing with his father and Grandfather. Before being allowed to step on the boat, his father gave him one stipulation that he was to swim across the entire Western Cove. Putting aside the fact that he has asthma and with determination, he swam across the Cove and back three times in a row.

Almost 7 years later, at the age of 12, Gerry got his first boat, a Scott Atwater outboard. According to him, the outboard rode him more than he rode it. Gerry also had a boat named the "Sandra Lee" that was built just for him by Arno Day at the shipyard. Before buying the fishing vessel, "Amy Patty" in 1973, he spent time fishing with Wilbur McDonald and his Grandfather.

In 1966, Gerry married his wife, Sherrel. They had two daughters, Amy and Patty, and a son, Brad. They have 4 grandchildren, Billy, Joe, Brad and Kim.

Fishing has brought lots of good memories and even better friendships. Even though it wasn't always fun, he can honestly say he has enjoyed fishing from day one. If Gerry isn't fishing, you can find him in the clam flats, cutting wood, mowing the lawn or in his garden. He doesn't travel very far.



We are proud to induct Gerry Heanssler into the 2014 Fishermen's Hall of Fame.



Stephen Robbins, Jr.

Steve Robbins Jr was born on Christmas Eve to Steve and Shirley Robbins. He grew up in Stonington. After graduation, he attended Maine Maritime Academy. Later he went to Antarctic on a research vessel. Steve has made a career by lobstering inshore and way off shore.

He always names his boats after family members, "Shirley and Freeman" and the "Stacie V." Steve's off shore stories have been in articles in the Maine Commercial Fisherman and the book BEARINGS.

Today he fishes and plays guitar.

We are proud to induct Stephen Robbins, Jr. into the 2014 Fishermen's Hall of Fame.