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Maine Groups Honored by National Marine Association

ABBRA presents Maine Marine Trades Association and Kittery Point Yard with high honors

Warren, RI—Both the Kittery Point Yacht Yard and Susan Swanton from the Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA) received high marks for innovation and training from the American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA) at the association's Annual Conference, held in New Bedford, Massachusetts, July 18–19, 2011.

Kittery Point and Swanton are two of six groups nationwide to receive a prestigious ABBRA award, offered on an annual basis and designed to recognize individuals and companies from the boatbuilding and repairing industry for their excellence throughout the year.

Kittery Point Yacht Yard, with two locations on the Piscataqua River and known for its 22' custom dayboats, received its award for the changes manager Tom Allen and his team were willing to make to build a strong productive team and a profitable boatyard business after a crippling fire in 2008.

“Tom Allen and his managers embrace challenges and encourage change in a fresh and fearless manner,” ABBRA President Pam Lenzion said as she presented the award. “They firmly believe that a business needs to recognize and rely on the individual talent of their workers to grow their business. Tom says it's simple; he provides the vision and the goals and then the management team assigns the right people to the right task. Some may say this is just good business sense but when the Kittery Point team faces an obstacle, they use their Yankee ingenuity to find a way around it.”

Susan Swanton, the executive director for the Maine Marine Trades Association based in Portland, Maine, received her award for, among other accomplishments, helping to create and implement the Maine Marine Trades Apprenticeship Program, the Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program, and a number of other environmental initiatives in partnership with the EPA. In addition, she was instrumental in creating the Marine Systems Training Center in Thomaston, which focuses on providing high quality, high demand training for incumbent workers. She also co-chaired Maine's North Star Alliance Initiative, a \$14.4M federal grant that supported an economic development initiative including workforce development centered on Maine boatbuilding and the marine and composite industries.

“Susan doesn't stand on the sidelines when it comes to workforce development in the marine industry,” Lenzion continues. “She is a member of the Marine Industry Training and Education Council, an organization whose mission is to facilitate development and sustained availability of a technically skilled workforce for the recreational marine industry, and she is a member of the National Leadership Council for the National Skills Coalition.” Additionally, Swanton was appointed to sit on the Maine Jobs Council, is a member of the Policy Advisory Committee for the Maine Sea Grant College Program, a founding member of Maine's Working Waterfront Coalition, and Vice-President of the New England Marine Trades Association.

ABBRA offers its congratulations to all the 2011 award winners and thanks them for their willingness to share their accomplishments with the rest of the industry. For more information on ABBRA's annual awards' categories and nominations, please visit www.abbra.org.

The American Boat Builders and Repairers Association (ABBRA), founded in 1943, strengthens and encourages professionalism in the boat building and marine service industry by providing its members with timely information, training, education and business services.

ABBRA: Dedicated to the Marine Service and Repair Industry.

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