

# 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, the hands-on, day-to-day contact with the commercial fishing community, and 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 and harbor management courses. More importantly, he was successful in getting the commercial fishing community to 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 biggest passions. He started the Blue Claw 4-H Marine Science Club, working with hundreds of kids tagging horseshoe 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 New Jersey 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 New Jersey 4-H Marine Science Project Guide and in 1987 received the New Jersey 4-H Agents Association Educator of the Year Award for his numerous contributions to educating youth and adults in the marine sciences.

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. In early 2007 he passed away from leukemia.

His memory and legacy live on.

# Remember Tweed



## & Plant the Seed!

*The Stew Tweed  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Scholarship Fund*

[njseagrants.org](http://njseagrants.org)

**Sea Grant**  
NJ Sea Grant Consortium

22 Magruder Road  
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732



# The Stew Tweed Fisheries & Aquaculture Scholarship Fund

In 2007, the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) 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 perpetuates Stew's dedication to applying fisheries and marine-related technology and scientific information 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 are 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. The NJSGC and the scholarship fund partners and benefactors believe the Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund will help 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 steadying 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, and retired Deputy Director for the NOAA National Sea Grant Program*

*If you'd 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*

*Rosemary Higgins*

*College & Special Programs Coordinator*

*732-872-1300 x 19 or email [rhiggins@njseagrant.org](mailto:rhiggins@njseagrant.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 NJSGC Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund. Please detach this form and mail it with your donation to:

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, 22 Magruder Road, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732  
Attention: Stew Tweed Scholarship

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.