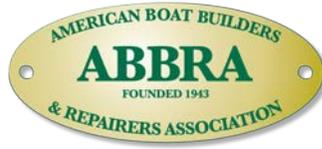


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Maine Business Leaders Honored at National Conference

Newport, RI March 1, 2017 - Kittery Point Yacht Yard of Kittery Maine, and Susan Swanton, of Biddeford Maine were honored at ABBRA's Annual Award Ceremony on January 24th.

ABBRA's 2017 **Boatyard of the Year** Award was given to **Kittery Point Yacht Yard** for demonstrating excellence in all facets of their company, through commitment to customer care, quality workmanship, best business practices, industry standards, professionalism, workforce development, and positive vendor relations. Tom Allen purchased the reputable Dion's Yacht Yard in Kittery Maine in 2004 and renamed it **Kittery Point Yacht (KPPY)**. In 2007, he acquired Patten's Yacht Yard the only other full service waterfront yard in the area. In 2008, Mr. Allen and Mr. Patten began building their own line of proprietary power boats at KPPY's Elliot facility. Tom Allen is highly regarded in the industry for the many improvements he has made to the facilities, the thoughtful and forward thinking approaches he has taken to management, his collaborative nature, respect for employees and customers, and his dedication to the industry as a whole. KPPY's mission is to inspire a shared vision of excellence in their team. Their culture is defined by the values of teamwork and unmatched workmanship, while creating long term customer relationships. They demonstrate care for their facilities, the environment and their communities with a focus on preserving the working waterfront. They strive to exceed industry standards and to be recognized as one of the industry's finest.

The President's Award was presented to Susan Swanton for her significant and lasting contribution to the boat building and repair industry. This prestigious annual award has been given to industry greats such Bill Yeargin, Frank Herhold, Neil Ross, Dennis Nixon, Jack Brewer, Steve Kitchin, Carl Cramer, Jim Bronstein, Bill Munger, Jonathan Jones, John Hall and Mike Keyworth. Like these previous recipients, Susan is highly respected throughout the industry. Her clarity of vision, understanding of the boatbuilding and repair industry, and advocacy has her in demand as a speaker at most national industry conferences and as an advisor to marine industry organizations and government agencies. She is tireless in her efforts to promote professionalism and integrity in the boatbuilding and repair industry. Susan began her career in 1979 at Rumery's Boat Yard in Biddeford and has held her current position for the past 20 years. She has had an impact in the state of Maine as a co-chair of a \$14 million federal grant that turned around the marine industry in the State. She focuses on producing high quality, high demand incumbent worker training and has a national voice through the National Skills Coalition and Business Leaders United. Susan has partnered with ABBRA, and other state and national trade associations to provide quality programs to the industry. She is a pioneer in workforce development and legislative issues that affect boatbuilding and repair businesses.

For more information on ABBRA's annual awards' nomination process, please visit www.abbra.org. *Founded in 1943, ABBRA is a national marine trade organization that represents, is dedicated to, and seeks to strengthen and encourage professionalism in the boat building, boat repair, and marine service industry.*



Tom Allen receiving his award from Ron Helbig, ABBRA President.



Susan Swanton receiving her award from Pamela Lenzion, ABBRA Executive Director.