

Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival Announces the 2011 Admirals of the Fleet

Nancy Schilling / Captain Bill Schilling

Our Admirals will lead the Board Parade and Blessing of the Fleet on the May River during the opening ceremonies of the Seventh Annual Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival on Sunday, October 16 at 2:00pm.

Our Admirals are well deserving of this honor. They both live and breath the water. Nancy & Bill Schilling and their six siblings were raised on Long Island, NY. Their upbringing included lots of time on the water and deep sea fishing. The Schilling family moved to Florida in 1972, and then to Hilton Head Island.

In 1985 four of the children and their families came to build a marina, Schilling Boathouse on Skull Creek. Nancy, Bill and the family operated the marina with Nancy as general manager and Bill managing the dry stack storage.

Over the past 26 years, Nancy has gone on to write a marina travel guide, start the SC Marine Association, and find Friends of the Rivers. Bill managed the storage and fishing operations of the Boathouse until 2006, when he was able to reconnect with his past and first love as a charter fishing boat captain.

There are few folks who appreciate the pristine and plentiful waters of the Bluffton and Hilton Head areas that haven't spent time with these two over the years.

Today, both Nancy and Bill live in the Bluffton area and are enjoying retirement.