Home Chefs to Compete at this Week’s Seafood Throwdown

Two home chefs will compete in this week’s Seafood Throwdown at Cape Ann Farmers’ Market: Gloucester’s Lisa van Sand vs. Boston’s David Alcott. Both home chefs have catering backgrounds and will find out what secret seafood they’ll be cooking with at 4:30 p.m. this Thursday, August 28. Once they discover the secret seafood, they will each be given $25 and 15 minutes to use the Farmers’ Market as their pantry, and then an hour to prepare, cook and plate samples for two judges and Farmers’ Market customers chosen randomly by volunteers and given a “Time to Eat Seafood” ticket.

Peter Van Ness will emcee this week’s Seafood Throwdown. Van Ness is the president & CEO of Van Ness Group and was one of the organizers behind the block party on Gloucester’s Main Street.

This week’s judges are Joeann Hart and Hallie Baker. Hart is a Gloucester author and regular contributor to the Boston Globe and Boston Globe Magazine. One reviewer said of Joeann’s debut novel *Addled* that her “writing grows stronger when she writes about food. Some of the food passages will make you feel like you’ve finished a gourmet meal.” Baker owns Turtle Alley Chocolates in Gloucester and Salem. Her hand-made chocolate creations have been featured on the Food Network’s *Roker on the Road*, Boston Globe Magazine, NPR’s *Splendid Table*, the Phantom Gourmet, Martha Steward Channel and WFNX. Together, they bring a distinguished palate to this week’s Seafood Throwdown.

On September 4, Seafood Throwdown will feature a seafood demonstration by an icon of Gloucester’s fishing community: Angela Sanfilippo, CEO of the Gloucester Fishermen’s Wives Association (GFWA) and executive director of the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership. You can find Angela’s cooking in the GFWA *The Taste of Gloucester* cookbook which has sold over 100,000 copies to date. A lifelong advocate of Gloucester’s fishing community, Angela has used seafood to drive home the need for protecting our oceans and marine fisheries that sustain fishermen. She has been a guest on various cooking shows including PBS’ *Ciao Italia*.

Seafood Throwdown is an event cooked up by the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) and Cape Ann Farmers’ Market to drive the importance of locally caught seafood and community based fishermen to people’s stomachs. Seafood Throwdowns will run from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and promise to be a fun, educational and community driven activity designed to educate those interested in local produce about the importance of locally caught seafood. Stay tuned for a schedule of future Seafood Throwdown participants.