

**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL  
PRESS RELEASE**



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**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL TO FEATURE COWBOY POET JOEL NELSON  
Nelson one of eleven recipients to be honored with a 2009 National Heritage Award**

**New Bedford, MA, September 4, 2009** -- Among authentic cowboy poets active today, Joel Nelson is considered by his peers, working cowboys, and the ranching community to be one of the best. Whether he is “telling” his poems in an auditorium or a bunkhouse, his audiences are transfixed by the power of his delivery, knowing that here is a man who truly knows whereof he speaks. Unlike others involved in the cowboy poetry revival of the mid-1980s, Joel has not given up his cowboy life to become a “professional” entertainer, but has chosen to continue living on ranches and working as a highly respected horse trainer and cowboy. He and his wife Sylvia work side-by-side horseback operating the 24,000-acre Anchor Ranch near Alpine where they raise Corriente cattle. Joel is the personification of “the real deal” (and the true definition of a cowboy). Joel’s recitation of cowboy poetry classics and his original poetry can be heard on his CD, “The Breaker in the Pen,” the only cowboy poetry recording ever nominated for a Grammy Award. Joel is one of eleven people to receive a 2009 National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The award honors American folk artists for their contributions to our national cultural mosaic.

The Working Waterfront Festival is an award winning, family friendly event celebrating the history and culture of New England's commercial fishing industry. The free festival presents all that goes into bringing seafood from the ocean to the table in a way that is hands-on, educational and fun. It features: live music, children’s activities, cooking demonstrations, vessel and harbor tours, fisherman’s contests, author readings, film screenings, local seafood, festival bookstore, maritime artisans marketplace & more. While continuing to focus on commercial fishing and other port industries, the 2009 *Working Waterfront Festival* will consider connections between fishing and farming communities. Plans for this special program include an open air market featuring local produce and fresh seafood and cooking demonstrations highlighting traditional community recipes; panel discussions, author readings and film screenings which explore common issues; and occupational demonstrations of fishing and farming skills. This year’s Festival dates are September 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Complete details at [www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org](http://www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org)