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October 1, 2026

The Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame Class of 2027 Has Been Selected

The Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, headquartered in Hayward, Wisconsin, has selected seven individuals and one organization to be honored with induction into the organization for their significant and lasting contributions to the sport and heritage of fresh water fishing. Every year a panel of industry leaders meets to choose from a vast group of nominees for inclusion into this distinguished body of professionals.

American Fisheries Society

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Established in 1870, AFS is the world's oldest and among the most prominent professional fisheries organizations, representing approximately 6,500 members worldwide. For over 150 years, AFS has served fisheries professionals, advanced quality science, and promoted wise stewardship of fisheries and aquatic resources. For more information on this incredible organization visit their web site at - fisheries.org.

Brian Brosdahl - Minnesota

Brian Brosdahl, who is commonly referred to as, "Bro" has been guiding in Minnesota for nearly 40 years and has pioneered new products and techniques for open water and ice fishing. A panfish and walleye specialist, Bro has fished tournaments professionally and shared his experience with millions of people. In his yearly travels Bro makes over 100 personal appearances at shows and store events. In recent years, he has also transitioned to hosting podcasts for several sponsors and to promote his own guide service. His podcasts include fishing reports and profiling new lures and techniques. Bro has been a prolific teacher in the fishing industry. His guiding business, store appearances, seminars, and social media accounts have educated hundreds of thousands of people and his personal relationship with anglers is legendary.

Carrie Frost - Wisconsin

Carrie Frost was a pioneering Wisconsin businesswoman and expert fly-tier who helped make Stevens Point famous in the fishing world in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Born in La Crosse in 1868, she moved to Stevens Point with her family in 1885. She originally began tying artificial trout flies for her father, an avid fisherman. After experimenting with local materials and improving on imported European fly patterns, her flies became highly sought after by anglers.

She founded the C.J. Frost Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Company, which grew into one of the region's largest fly-making operations. By the time she retired in 1919, the company employed around 150 people — many of them women — which was unusual and significant for that era. Her company later evolved into what became the Weber Tackle Company.

Carrie Frost was also an outdoorswoman herself. She loved hunting and fishing and owned a farm in Waushara County with private trout ponds fed by Wady Creek. Her impact on Stevens Point's fishing industry was so important that the city became known as the "Fly Tackle Capital of the World." PBS Wisconsin later created an educational feature called "Carrie Frost: Fly Fishing Boss" about her life and influence. Today, her name still appears around Stevens Point, including Carrie Frost Drive and Carrie Frost Park.

Don Gablehouse - Nebraska

Don Gablehouse is a recognized leader in fisheries techniques, their standardization, communicating sport fish population size distributions, and developing visionary programs that improved the sport of fishing. Gablehouse's widely cited sport fish population research is standard curriculum in many fisheries management courses. As the Chief of Fisheries in Nebraska, he created the first aquatic habitat improvement program. Gablehouse was the primary driver for the inception and passage of the Aquatic Habitat Stamp in that state. It was the first effort of its kind in the nation, has always been highly regarded, and is still considered one of the best programs of its kind. In terms of Communications and Outreach, Gablehouse coordinated the development of the booklet, Producing Fish and Wildlife from Kansas Ponds, and in 2016 Gablehouse received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Fisheries Society

Jason Lesmeister - Alaska

Jason Lesmeister has been guiding for freshwater fish in Alaska for over 35 years, a career he began shortly after he graduated from high school. His path to becoming one of the top guides on Alaska's legendary Kenai River took a winding path through a multitude of the Last Frontier's incredible fishing resources.

Throughout his early movements Lesmeister learned techniques to find and catch both the migrating species that came in from the ocean, as well as the fish that spent their entire lives in the river systems. He also perfected many techniques - that were not commonly used by the local guides and anglers - that he felt would add to his success when angling pressure created a tough bite. Lesmeister is an innovator and his fish catching abilities were second to none on the resources he was working on. Lesmeister is unique relative to other guides in Alaska. Most have focused on one resource while he spent his early years moving around this huge wilderness learning all that needed to be learned about the many resources he encountered. Not only in how to master the ability to harvest from them, but also what it would take to protect them. He believes he is still learning new skills each year and will continue to volunteer to always keep the beauty and pristine nature of the resources in Alaska intact and available to all who wish to enjoy the rich allure of the Last Frontier.

John Myhre - Wisconsin

John Myhre has been a fishing guide on Wisconsin waters for over 45 years and is now into guiding the second and third generations of many clients he has hosted over the years. Many days are spent on the water educating the anglers who have joined him in his boat. Myhre believes fishing should not only be fun, but it should be a learning experience. In fact, he always asks people at the end of a guide trip if they acquired any new knowledge and the response has always been a resounding yes.

Myhre had produced and hosted the popular Wisconsin Northland Outdoors Radio shows, producing new shows 52 weeks every year and he has not missed a week in over 35 years. Myhre's productions promote fishing, enjoying the outdoors, education, and he supports many clubs and organizations. Over the years Myhre has conducted many seminars and spoke at sport show and clubs. He is an active member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers and the Outdoor Writers Association of America and has been with both organizations for over 30 years. Myhre has written hundreds of articles for various outdoor publications and has been a guest on several television shows.

Rob Neumann - Minnesota

Rob Neumann has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications, technical reports, and various other fishery-related papers and presentations, has overseen 28 state and federal grant proposals, and has been published in popular media outlets. Neumann was inducted into the American Fisheries Society Hall of Excellence (HOE) in 2022. It is the highest honor given by the Fisheries Management Section to recognize fisheries management professionals who have made outstanding and cumulative contributions to the advancement of fisheries management; to emphasize the accomplishments, dedication, and principles of those honored in the HOE; and to honor and describe the fisheries management profession.

In 1995 In-Fisherman magazine published Neumann's first article on ultrasonic telemetry of northern pike in South Dakota which was part of his doctoral research. A year later, he took a job at In-Fisherman as Managing Editor where he continues his work in many aspects of the editorial process of print and on-line publications while contributing to television programming as well. At In-Fisherman, Neumann has written many influential articles on the biology and management of various fish species, explaining in colloquial terms the concepts he and other fishery biologists and managers had been developing. For many years, Neumann coordinated and wrote one of the oldest and most popular In-Fisherman columns, Bits & Pieces, which presented short summaries of recent fisheries findings relevant to anglers. An avid angler, Rob has dedicated his multi-faceted career to furthering the science of fisheries management and its understanding and appreciation by the general public and the angling public in particular.

Brad Wiegmann - Arkansas

Brad Wiegmann has worked diligently as an outdoor writer, photographer, podcast/YouTube channel host of The Fishing Guide Podcast, was a past president of Missouri Outdoor

Communicators, past president of NWA Bassmaster, founder of the fishing pole/PDF jacket loaner program at FUMC and is the editor of the award-winning website www.BradWiegmann.com. Not only is Wiegmann a prolific outdoor communicator, but he has also been guiding since 1989 on Beaver Lake. During his time as a fulltime fishing guide Wiegmann fished as a co-angler in BASSMASTER and FLW Outdoors tournaments qualifying for six FLW Everstart Championships. Wiegmann was the first co-angler to be featured on the FLW Outdoors television show, Berkley Co-Angler Close Up, and was one of the few anglers to ever be featured in BASSMASTER magazine in two different destination pieces. Over the years, Wiegmann has written for Fishing Tackle Retailer, FLW Outdoors, American Bass Angler magazine, Midwest Outdoors, Game and Fish magazine, Lurennet.net, ODU Magazine, FLW Outdoors magazine, CrappieNOW and CatfishNOW.

The Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum is the international headquarters for education, recognition and promotion of fresh water sportfishing. Our mission is to develop and maintain the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and its museum for the preservation and display of historical artifacts of fresh water sportfishing. We strive to conduct and maintain a program for the recognition of persons, organizations and institutions that have made significant and lasting contributions to the sport and heritage of fresh water fishing. Furthermore, we conduct and maintain a program for qualifying, compiling and publishing all fresh water sportfishing records. Additionally, we maintain a library that disseminates information and acts as the clearing house for historical and contemporary publications for the fresh water sportfishing industry. The Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame institutes programs to foster, maintain and improve the environment for future generations through promotion and education.

Visit our web site: www.freshwater-fishing.org