

THE SPLASH

The Official
Publication of the
National Fresh
Water Fishing
Hall of Fame

VOL. 31
NO. 1
Winter 2007

50# Plus Muskellunge taken on the last day of the season!

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Executive
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**Tom Gelb, Natural Muskellunge,
51-2, Vilas Co., Wisconsin,
caught on November 30, 2006.**



National Fresh Water

Fishing Hall of Fame

Founded 1960

Incorporated Not For Profit 1970

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THE SPLASH

Printed February 15, April 15, August 15, November 15

Programs and Activities

- Recognition of World Fresh Water Sport-fishing Records
- Record Book Published Annually
- Enshrinement for Achievement and Accomplishment
- Library for Research and Pleasure
- Educational Museum of Sportfishing Artifacts

Museum open April 15 to November 17 days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (no admittance after 3:30 p.m.)

Administration Office open year 'round 5 days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except Christmas-New Year interim weeks)

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The National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to conservation and sportfishing and to the maintenance of a hall of fame where the history of fishing and angling achievements are displayed.

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- Outdoor Writers Association of America
- Association Great Lakes Outdoor Writers
- Wisconsin Outdoor Communications Association
- SEOPA
- National Lure Collectors Club
- Antique Outboard Motor Club International

Please Give Us Your New Address!

If you have moved or if you change your address for the winter, please let us know. It will insure a more timely receipt of your Hall mail. Thanks for the help!

**THE HALL IS
WORKING FOR YOU!
SUPPORT IT! SIGN
UP A NEW MEMBER!**



Bill Gautsche
Wisconsin



Larry Colombo
Alabama

2007 Awards Committee Members



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Wisconsin



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Indiana



Gil Radonski
North Carolina



Vin Sparano
New Jersey



Wendy Williamson
Wisconsin

The Hall Announces Its 2007 Enshrinement & Induction Selections

Our Awards Committee met this past December in Hayward and made its selections for this year. Also present were Hall Executive Board members Harold Tiffany, Tom Turngren and Wendy Williamson. Their participation and input was greatly appreciated. Wendy was, in fact, unanimously “drafted” on to the Awards Committee. She will give the committee a most welcomed new point of view.

Elected for 2007 Enshrinement

Considered are persons who have had a lasting National or World impact to the benefit of fresh water sportfishing.

Charles F. Girard

(France & the U.S.A.)

Charles Girard was the Smithsonian’s first ichthyologist as well as its herpetologist. He led a remarkable, versatile and productive life, spanning 73 years and two continents. Girard was born in Mulhouse, in the Alsatian region of France. He studied at the College of Neuchatel, Switzerland, where he was a student of Louis Agassiz. When Agassiz moved to the United States in 1847, Girard accompanied him and worked as an assistant at Harvard University. There he published his first scientific paper, on cottid fishes (sculpins), in 1849.

Among his more important ichthyological papers were a monograph of the cottoids, (Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, 1852), a review of the cyprinoid fishes (minnows and suckers) of the western United States (Proceeding of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1856) and the reports on fishes of the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey and the Pacific Railroad Surveys.

Al W. Spiers

(Michigan)

For years, Al was the outdoor

editor of the Nixon Newspaper Syndicate. It is doubtful if there were any major outdoor magazines worth reading that did not display his by-line, at one time or another.

Al was not only an excellent writer, but he was also a gifted speaker with a vocabulary second to none. That alone made him the envy of every one whom ever heard him speak.

Al was a long time member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, a Past President of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers and a founder of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers.

Elected for 2007

Legendary Angler

Considered are persons who have had at least regional achievements in their endeavors to have a lasting impact to benefit fresh water sportfishing.

Don Dubin

(Illinois)

Don Dubin of Lincolnwood, Illinois, has been one of the forces behind several of the most significant developments in the history of the fisheries of the Great Lakes States over the past five decades.

In 1970, he was instrumental in the formation of Salmon Unlimited, the organization responsible for the first salmon planting in Illinois waters. Other Great Lakes states had already launched trout and salmon programs.

Salmon Unlimited raised funds to purchase chinook salmon from the West Coast and attempted to raise the fish in a sewage pond in Waterman, Illinois. Although this first attempt failed, it spurred SU to purchase salmon through the state of Michigan. Salmon Unlimited’s membership built holding cages in Diversey Harbor, Chicago, to house and imprint the young fish. This effort resulted in the first successful

salmon stocking in Illinois.

Don dreamed of creating a musky program in Illinois.

In 1983, Don, then president of the Chicagoland Chapter of Muskies, Inc. met with managers of Illinois’ fish hatchery in Spring Grove. He convinced the group to allow the Chicagoland Chapter to use several small ponds at the Chain of Lakes State Park to rear muskies.

Don has long been a promoter of the use of barbless hooks for the benefit of fish and fishermen.

Don’s fish carvings have risen above fine craftsmanship into that rare realm of genuine wildlife folk-art. He also maintains a collection of fishing memorabilia at his home. Several prominent industry figures and journalists regard it as the best private collection in the state of Illinois.

Frank V. Suick

(Wisconsin)

Frank owned and operated a bar in Antigo, Wisconsin called “Suick’s Muskie Bar.” Frank is probably the father of “jerk baits” for muskies. He developed the concept while observing trout rising to the surface and preying upon the weaker trout, which were alternately rising and falling through the water column. During the early 1940’s Frank developed a bait called the Suick Muskie Thriller. It is still very popular today. Frank also helped develop musky rods for the Heddon Tackle Co.

Frank passed away on August 24, 1977.

Elected for 2007

Legendary Guide

Considered are persons who have gained, by their expertise and professionalism, a status of credibility and immortality judged so by their customers, the region and/or their peers.

Kenneth W. Ackley

(Wisconsin)

Ken was a fishing guide on the Chippewa Flowage near Hayward, Wisconsin for over 55 years. During the summer months, he rarely had a day off. His services were in high demand well into the 1980's. Ken was a year-round sportsman. Besides fishing, he would guide for ducks and partridge (ruffed grouse) in the fall. During the late fall, before freeze up, he would trap for mink, muskrat, beaver and raccoon.

Ken was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He passed away on February 21, 1985.

Donald Keister

(Wisconsin)

Don Keister has guided nationally renowned sports figures, movie celebrities, outdoor writers and politicians. Still, he considers himself a working north woods fishing guide to this day. His greatest satisfaction is when he guides grandchildren, even great-grandchildren, of clients he introduced to fishing decades ago.

Not content to just be a guide, who has been around for a long time, Don has kept pace with our rapidly changing industry. Yet, he has continued to respect and adhere to the great traditions of guiding. He learned all this from his father, while participating in our growing industry. A lure designer, he incorporated four-color brochures and business cards long before most of the new generation of guides realized the need for more professionalism.

To Don, fishing is a vehicle for immersing one self in the wonders of nature. His only guarantee is that you will learn about the incredible north woods, while having fun. Catching fish is a bonus and his clients catch their share.

Elected for 2007

Legendary Communicator

Considered are persons who have developed a unique communication means or avenue, which was instrumental in introducing fishing to the public or in maintaining public interest or awareness.

Harold Ensley

(Kansas)

Harold Ensley died on August 24, 2005 at the age of 92.

Harold began fishing in front of TV cameras in 1953. Eventually, viewers in 70 markets around the USA, would become familiar with Harold and his favorite fishing spots and fishing buddies. His theme song began, "Gone fishin' instead of just a wishin'..."

In 2002 Harold published his first book and began a second. He was featured in the cast of characters in author Richard Louv's book "Flyfishing For Sharks." In the book, Louv covered the history of fishing. Louv stated, "The Midwest's Harold Ensley, and a handful of others, pioneered the outdoor television show – and TV itself."

Harold was inducted into the Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame, which features many of his prized catches from both salt and fresh water. Harold was an early advocate of "catch and release" and single barbless hooks. Some fish, however, are caught for consumption and for those you may want to try the Harold Ensley Fish Fry Coating Mix. By the way it's not just for fish – would you believe mushrooms too?

Jim Grassi

(Idaho)

Jim, is the founder and president of Let's Go Fishing Ministries. Few in the western United States have developed, educated and encouraged more anglers for decades than he has.

Last year, Let's Go Fishing Ministries celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing innovative programs that help in the development of new fishermen. These are tremendous programs.

Jim's reputation as a bass pro, fishing instructor, author, television personality and a scientist are firmly established. All of this is evident in the volumes of clippings, articles and video footage that journal his legacy.

Grits Gresham

(Louisiana)

Grits Gresham has been one of the nation's most recognized and admired outdoor writers for decades. His work has entertained and educated people around the United States and the world.

Grits is the shooting editor of Gun and Ammo Magazine and editor-at-large of Petersen Hunting Magazine. His seven books on hunting, fishing and other subjects relating to the outdoors life include "Weatherby: The Man, The Gun," "The Legend," "Grits on Guns," "The Complete Wildflower," "The Complete Book of Bass Fishing" and "The Sportsman and His Family Outdoors."

For more than three decades, Gresham has served as host of outdoor programs on network and cable television. Among the shows are "Chevy Trucks Shooting Sports America," the "Sports Afield" syndicated series and ABC's "The American Sportsman," where he was field host and producer. Over the past 15 years, Grits has been the host of a series of videos for the National Shooting Sports Foundation. These videos have been the subjects of recreational shooting, hunting, firearm safety and wildlife management.

Grits has extensive freelance and staff experience with such magazines as Sports Afield, Field and Stream, Outdoor Life, Gun World, The American Rifleman, Gentleman's Quarterly, Southern Outdoors, Western Outdoors, Guns and Ammo, Sports Illustrated, Bassmaster, True, Argosy, Boating, Outboard, Advertising Age and Camping Journal.

James Lindner

(Minnesota)

As an active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, Jim is at the helm of producing not only Lindner's Angling Edge Television, but the Wal-Mart FLW Bass and Walleye Tournaments. Additionally he is responsible for making national outdoor commercials for

some of the biggest names in the outdoor industry. Prior to this, Jim was filming, producing, directing, script writing, editing, and hosting In-Fisherman Television. This show reached millions of viewers through TNN and the Outdoor Life Network.

Jim and his video team have developed and refined a successful formula for educating and entertaining at the same time. In doing so, they have produced over 50 award-winning programs, earning a variety of North American film and video awards. Among a few are Outdoor Writer's Association of America honors, Cable Ace-Nominations, Telly and Teddy Awards.

Jim was awarded the 2003 Rapala Angler of the Year.

John E. Phillips

(Alabama)

John is a freelance writer who has had over 5,000 articles published in over a hundred magazines and several hundred newspapers. He is the author of 21 books on the outdoors. He serves as the outdoor editor of 17 radio stations in Alabama. His column is syndicated in 38 papers as the "Alabama Outdoors." John has been the outdoor editor of the "Birmingham Post-Herald" for 21 years.

John has served as Vice President of the Alabama Wildlife Federation and President of the Alabama Sportsman's Association. John has been recognized by the Governor of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Conservation for his work in the outdoors.

Ron Schara

(Minnesota)

Ron was the outdoor editor for the Minneapolis Star-Tribune for many years. He has expanded his horizons into radio and television. Ron's radio and television show "Minnesota Bound" airs on over 50 stations. Ron's TV show "Backroads with Ron and Raven" is seen on The Outdoor Channel and several other outdoor networks.

Ron has degrees in Journalism

and Wildlife Biology. His interest and knowledge of the outdoors and environmental issues is extensive. Ron has written countless articles and has had several books on fishing and the outdoors published.

2007 Organizational/ Governmental Award

Considered are organizations or government entities which have demonstrated and /or performed a valuable service or act to benefit freshwater sportfishing within jurisdiction or the boundaries of the organization whether local, regional or national.

Walleyes Unlimited, U.S.A./ Jim Wrolstad

Walleyes Unlimited, USA is a multi-species club dedicated to the sharing of information and teaching others how to fish. The club was founded in 1969 by Jim Wrolstad of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who was then an editor at "Fishing Facts" magazine. Because of its sharing philosophy, the club rapidly grew to over 500 members.

From its humble beginnings in Richmond, Illinois at Orsolini's Restaurant and in Milwaukee at Chatsie's Bar and Hall, the club has extended its reach around the country. They have members located in many states and collectively have fished the waters of all fifty states. Thousands of hours have been spent on Canadian lakes and hundreds more have been spent in Mexico and the Gulf waters. Members have fished in other countries, as well. One member has fished in the Yang Si River in China. The club has "spawned" a thousand members who have carried its message around the globe.

During its existence, Walleyes Unlimited has developed hundreds of programs, ideas and technologies all geared to share information and promote the sport of fresh water fishing.

2007 Special Recognition Award

Recognizes individuals, groups

or organizations for their programs benefiting fresh water angling which are clearly not covered by other recognition programs.

Jim Chapralis

Jim C. Chapralis was a pioneer in international fishing. In 1961/62 he set up the Fishing Division—the first of its kind—for Safari Outfitters, Inc. In 1975 he founded PanAngling Travel Service. Jim edited the Pan/Angler, (a monthly newsletter devoted to international fishing) for almost 25 years. In 1998 he sold PanAngling Ltd.

Jim offered the first peacock bass fishing trips available to the general public (in Colombia), which started the eventual peacock bass craze. Similarly, he set up the first freshwater Dorado fishing trip in Argentina in the 1960's (now quite popular). Jim also promoted payara fishing as well as other exotic South American species.

Jim assisted and edited the first copies of Midwest Sportsman's News in 1954 (monthly regional publication) before being drafted in to the U.S. Army.

After his military service, Jim started Sportackle International (a fiberglass rod manufacturing company). The company helped to introduce many new innovations, including the rubber "O" ring rod ferrules that were once popular.

Jim wrote a number of articles for various publications including, Field and Stream, Outdoor Life, Sports Afield, True, Fly Fisherman, Fishing World, The Fisherman, Fur-Fish-Game, etc. In the early 1950's, when spinning was being introduced to the U.S., he wrote an article explaining a new method for achieving casting accuracy in spinning. It appeared in Hunting and Fishing Magazine (the first outdoor magazine to surpass the one-million circulation mark.)

Fort Benning B.A.S.S. Club

The Fort Benning BASS Club was established in 1972, by a few military members. It has grown

tremendously over the years. Currently there are over 45 active members in the club.

The purpose of the club is to bring together dedicated bass fishermen for the exchange of ideas, betterment of the environment and for the fellowship derived from club membership.

The club is open to all military, retirees, honorably discharged service members, DOD (Department of Defense) civilians and family members of those listed.

Despite losing members due to deployment, the club still produces qualifiers for the Georgia state bass team. Club members are also active in the affairs of the Georgia BASS Chapter Federation (GBCF).

The BASS Club of Fort Benning also conducts kids and conservation projects, despite facing more restrictions than the average BASS chapter. Although DOD regulations prohibit fundraisers, the club contributed more than \$1,000 to worthy causes in 2004.

Some of the club's public service projects include supporting the Red Cross and the Fort Benning Food Locker. Taking part in the annual "Clean the Hooch" event, a community-wide effort to clean the banks of the Chattahoochee River around Columbus, Georgia, is one of the club's environmental projects. Each October, club members use their boats to help clean up the 10-mile

stretch of the river that runs through Fort Benning.

Jim Kalkofen

Jim has spent his entire career devoted to furthering the sport fishing industry, specifically in the competitive walleye fishing arena. As a child, Jim learned to fish from his father, who to this day, still makes most of his own lures and continues to inspire Jim's career. Working as the Advertising Director at Sheldon's, Inc. (Mepps) and as the Press Relations Manager at Mercury Marine, Jim gained insight into the fishing industry operations, as well as the knowledge to effectively create, manage and build the walleye tournament scene nationally. Along the way, Jim established the most concrete network of media personnel, professional anglers, and industry executives, who all owe product development and personal achievements to the walleye tournament fishing explosion he ignited.

Jim's vision over the past 35 years has been to construct a format in which anglers can vie nationally for cash prizes, notoriety and fame. With the number of walleyes tournament circuits currently established and introduced each year, he acknowledges that his vision has sparked an entire revolution in the fishing industry; one that now affords anglers the opportunity to travel the nation making a career fishing

competitively. Jim's vision now includes mentoring young kids to inspire a whole new generation of angler's, who will someday cross the stage to win the first place trophy.

Wheelin' Sportsmen

Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation) is a national program dedicated to providing all people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. Kirk Thomas is the National Coordinator for the Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF program.

In 1966, Kirk founded Wheelin' Sportsmen of America to provide people with disabilities the opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Disabled/disadvantaged individuals were paired with non-disabled/disadvantaged individuals for fishing, hunting, archery, firearm shooting or other outdoor activity and educational events. Merging with the National Wild Turkey Federation in 2000 and forming Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF, the program now offers similar events on a national level with the potential for events in all 50 states and parts of Canada. The Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF Program has eight regional event coordinators to help orchestrate these events. They receive assistance from over 2,200 NWTF chapters and 500,000 members, drawing upon the chapter's experience conducting hundreds of similar type events. The primary goal of Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF program is to give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in and enjoy outdoor events. Disabled individuals enjoy the relaxation and interaction with natural resources and engage in the camaraderie of others. Non-disabled peers assist the disabled individuals in the activities. Hopefully, this outing will induce a lifetime recreational activity for the individual and will encourage additional participation in future events.



(Courtesy of Plano Molding)

NATIONAL FISHING HALL OF FAME World Angling Records Granted

1st QUARTER - 2007 UPDATE

NOTE: World angling records are updated quarterly and the ultimate synthesis is published annually in book form each April, distributed free to members, media, manufacturers and world fisheries as a public service.

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“KEPT FISH” WORLD RECORDS

-DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL-

Fish	Line Class	Lbs. Ozs.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
MUSKELLUNGE/ Natural	80 lb.	51-2	Tom Gelb	Vilas County, Wisconsin, USA	11/30/06

-DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING-

Line Fish	Lbs. Class	Oz.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
SALMON/ Chum	15 lb. Tippet	12-8	Donald R. Crawford	Kennedy Creek, Washington, USA	11/3/06
	25 lb. Tippet	11-0	Donald R. Crawford	Kennedy Creek, Washington, USA	11/3/06

CORRECTION TO 2006 SPLASH #4

TROUT/ Brown	Unltd. Tippet	2-2	Don Vachini	East Walker River, California, USA	10/4/06
TROUT/ Golden	10 lb. Tippet	3-7	Theodore Hailey	Golden Lake, Wyoming, USA	8/28/06

-DIVISION #4 - ICE FISHING, POLE/LINE-

Fish	Line Class	Lbs. Oz.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
TROUT/ Brook	??	11-3	Ryan Rempfer	Deerfield Lake, South Dakota, USA	12/30/06

FOREIGN CAUGHT RECORDS

-DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL-

Line Fish	Lbs. Class	Oz.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Peacock	30 lb.	13-4	Will Whitehead	Lake Guri, Venezuela, SOUTH AMERICA	11/16/06
DORADO/	All Tackle (only)	47-8	Leonard J. Kouba	Uruguay River Argentina, SOUTH AMERICA	11/2/06

KEPT FISH



Tom Gelb, Natural Muskellunge, 51-2, Vilas Co., Wisconsin, 11-30-06.



Theodore Hailey, Golden Trout, 3-7, Golden Lake, Wyoming, 8-28-06.



Leonard J. Kouba, Dorado, 47-8, Uruguay River, Argetina, South America, 11-2-06.



Don Vachini, Brown Trout, 2-2, Div. 2, East Walker River, California, 10-4-06.



Donald R. Crawford, Chum Salmon, 12-8, Kennedy Creek, Washington, 11-3-06.

TIPS YOU CAN USE!

DON'T throw that old toothbrush away. By cutting a slot joining the hole that is already in the toothbrush handle, you'll have a great hook disgorger.

TIPS YOU CAN USE!

A small 2-hole button slipped onto your ice-fishing line and run up and down when you make bait-depth adjustments, will save you from having to start over with your lead plumb to find the bottom every time you change bait or catch a fish.

(Courtesy of Plano Molding)



Ron Carey, Kokanee Salmon, 5-14, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Utah, 9-7-06.

CATCH & RELEASE

-DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL-

Fish	Line Class	Lgth.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Smallmouth	15 lb.	22"	Will Whitehead	Susquehanna River, Pennsylvania, USA	9/5/06
PIKE/ Blue-Silver	Unltd.	41"	Bobbie Stephens	Stork Lake, Ontario, Canada	8/16/06
SALMON/ Chinook, King, Inland	2 lb.	42"	Chuck Booker	4 Mile Creek, New York, USA	10/27/06
	14 lb.	48"	Chuck Booker	4 Mile Creek, New York, USA	11/6/06
TROUT/ Brook	All Tackle	29"	Tim Matheson	Barbe Lake, Manitoba, Canada	10/21/06
	10 lb.	29"	Tim Matheson	Barbe Lake, Manitoba, Canada	10/21/06
TROUT/ Brown	14 lb.	32"	Chuck Booker	18 Mile Creek, New York, USA	11/4/06

-DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING-

Fish	Line Class	Lgth.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
MUSKELLUNGE/ Natural	20 lb. Tippet	49"	Robert Tomes	Flambeau River, Wisconsin, USA	10/18/06
	Unltd. Tippet	38"	Donaldson V. Lawhead	Chippewa River, Wisconsin, USA	9/30/06
SALMON/ Atlantic, Sea-Run	14 lb. Tippet	24"	Alan Madden	North Pole Stream, New Brunswick, Canada	8/22/06
SALMON/ Chum	16 lb. Tippet	36"	Gene Gramzow	Kitimat River, British Columbia, Canada	8/4/06
	20 lb. Tippet	38"	Gene Gramzow	Kitimat River, British Columbia, Canada	8/5/06
SALMON/Chinook, King, Inland	4 lb. Tippet	41"	Chuck Booker	4 Mile Creek, New York, USA	11/1/06
	6 lb. Tippet	43"	Chuck Booker	4 Mile Creek, New York, USA	11/1/06
	10 lb. Tippet	44"	Chuck Booker	4 Mile Creek, New York, USA	11/1/06

FOREIGN CAUGHT RECORDS

-DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL-

Fish	Line Class	Lgth.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Peacock	6 lb.	23"	Rod Bates	Lake Guri, Venezuela, South America	10/15/06
	8 lb.	22"	Will Whitehead	Guri Lake, Venezuela, South America	10/14/06
	10 lb.	25"	Rod Bates	Lake Guri, Venezuela, South America	10/15/06
	12 lb.	29"	Will Whitehead	Guri Lake, Venezuela, South America	11/15/06
	14 lb.	18"	Rod Bates	Lake Guri, Venezuela, South America	10/16/06
	15 lb.	30"	Will Whitehead	Guri Lake, Venezuela, South America	10/16/06
	20 lb.	25"	Rod Bates	Lake Guri, Venezuela, South America	10/15/06
	30 lb.	25"	Will Whitehead	Guri Lake, Venezuela, South America	11/15/06
DORADO	All Tackle (only)	42"	Leonard J. Kouba	Uruguay River, Argentina, South America	11/2/06

CATCH & RELEASE FISH



Gene Gramzow, Chum Salmon, 38", Kitimat River, British Columbia, 8-5-06.



Chuck Booker, King (Inland) Salmon, 43", 4 Mile Creek, New York, 11-1-06.



Will Whitehead, Peacock Bass, 29", Guri Lake, Venezuela, 11-15-06.



Robert Tomes, Natural Muskellunge, 49", Flambeau River, Wisconsin, 10-18-06.



Kevin Davison, Natural Muskellunge, 58", Lake Nipissing, Ontario, Canada, 10-6-06.

IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE DO SO TODAY. THE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Thank you!

From the Director's Desk



by Emmett Brown

As I am writing this, it's about 5° below zero. Reports are that it's going down to 20° below tonight. That's the bad news. The good news is that a lot of ice is being made. Fishing has been good this past month or so. Just last night, my son and I "iced" about 25 crappies. All were returned, to be caught again.

Longtime Hall member Al Hartog has recently downsized his fishing approach by reverting to the way our distant ancestors used to do it – handlining. Last fall Al applied this new/old approach to fishing and caught a very nice salmon doing so. Al has asked that we consider adding a handlining division to our records program. If we start receiving some inquiries regarding this, we may do so. It certainly sounds interesting.

I'll let Al tell his story and make his case in his own words.

"In the 1950's I was a caddy at a local golf course. In order to get a job you had to sign up on a clipboard. The caddies were chosen by the order that the caddies signed in. If you got there at 4:00 a.m. you'd get the first golfers. If you got there later, there was a wait for the next golfer. There was a lovely little river that ran through the golf course and that is where I spent my down time. By the time I would check back in, I would be passed up and would have to re-sign at the bottom of the list. My tackle was a Prince Albert tobacco can into which I placed some black braided line, a few hooks and a few worms. It fit neatly into my shirt pocket.

Several weeks ago in 2006, I

decided to tackle the salmon and trout in a local Lake Michigan harbor along a sea wall. My tackle was braided line, a hook and a piece of orange yarn, like I'd seen used in Alaska. My fishing buddies Karel and Dan tried to ignore me... until I got my first hit. It thrashed around a got loose. My fingers didn't get cut and the fish didn't run. I got one more, which promptly got off and then I got one with a good hook set. We used a landing net with a long handle to land the salmon. The 36 inch Chinook put up a good fight, but couldn't get up enough to run. I decided to enter it into the Hall to see what would happen even though I knew there was no category for hook, line, no pole and no reel. We measured, photographed and released the

critter. It's up to the Hall now and whatever happens, it was fun. P.S. I didn't make much money as a caddy."

That's quite a story Al. I would be very interested to hear what the membership thinks about this. Please let me know.

Last fall we made a mistake in our membership billings. The result was that some members did not get their renewals in a timely manner. Furthermore, this resulted in some of the renewal packets going out late. I apologize for this miscue. I will endeavor to not let this happen again. I really do appreciate all the support that our very generous membership has bestowed on the Hall for so many years. Thank you.

Best regards.

We'll Miss You

On January 19, 2007 Gerhardine "Ger" Gautsche passed away in Hayward, Wisconsin. Ger was the wife of Executive Board Director, Awards Committee Chairman and longtime supporter of the Hall, Bill Gautsche. Ger always found time to hunt and fish. Of course, she was most fond of musky fishing on Teal Lake, near Hayward.

Bill and Ger were married for over 54 years. Together they had 5 children and 11 grandchildren. Ger always supported Bill in the course of their many moves. She was the glue that kept her family together. Ger will be sadly missed and will always be in our hearts.

• • •

Arthur "Mr. Musky" Oehmcke died of natural causes December 3, 2006 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Art worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 41 years. From 1941 until 1969 he directed the operations of the Woodruff hatchery. The Woodruff hatchery specializes in musky propagation. It was at this facility that Art earned his well deserved nickname "Mr. Musky." Art was responsible for steering the hatchery, making it "the model" for all future hatchery operations throughout North America.

After his work at the Woodruff hatchery, he moved to the Spooner hatchery. Although he may be best remembered for his efforts in restoring Wisconsin's muskellunge population, his work was equally important in the propagation of most other gamefish natural to Wisconsin. Art retired in 1978.

Art is a 1982 inductee into the Hall. Additionally, he has been inducted into the National Fish Culture Hall of Fame and the Muskies, Inc. Hall of Fame. In 1994, the Woodruff hatchery was renamed the "Art Oehmcke State Fish Hatchery" in his honor.

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Dick Stroud, the first aquatic biologist for the State of Massachusetts, former executive vice president of the Sport Fishing Institute, esteemed fisheries scientist, American Fisheries Society past president and a man of countless other proud accomplishments, as well as a member of the Fishing Hall of Fame passed away on September 4, 2006.

Dick was a true gentleman and he will be sadly missed by the entire sportfishing community.

Missouri Man Reels in Ancient Fish Hook (300 –12,000 Years Old)

(reprinted from the January 2, 2007 Kansas City Star /Ap)

COLUMBIA, MO. – A man hunting for American Indian artifacts with his sons along a gravel bar on the Missouri River has uncovered an ancient fishhook that is making collectors envious.

“The first thing I thought is, “I hope this isn’t metal,” said Eric Henley, who found the hook last month near McBaine. “When I picked it up, there was a pretty good jump for joy and a couple of “whoops” and yells. It’s the cream of the crop.”

The hook is made of bone and covers his entire palm, making it much larger than most bone hooks.

Joel Harl, of the Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis, said the size of the hook suggests the fisherman who used it was after a larger fish.

Another artifact collector, Kenny Bassett, said the large size of the hook might indicate an earlier origin. American Indians used bigger rocks and tools in earlier periods to hunt larger game such as woolly mammoths. He said the hook could have been used to fish for pallid sturgeon or enormous catfish.

Bassett, who works with Henley, said he had to control his envy when he saw the oversized hook.

“I’ve been hunting” American Indian artifacts “for 30 years and never found anything so identifiably unique. I’ve never seen anything like it.” Bassett said.

Because bone matter deteriorates rapidly, bone artifacts typically have to be buried deep enough in the ground to be preserved. And they are usually found during archaeological digs, said Bill Iseminger, assistant site manager at Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site in Illinois.

Harl said sandier soil in spots along the river might have kept the hook preserved. He said the

hook could be anywhere from 300 to 12,000 years old.

Henley, a maintenance man at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has no plans to learn the hook’s exact age. Carbon dating the item would require drilling through the fragile bone, and he doesn’t want to risk ruining the hook.

Henley credits his sons, 11 and 6 for being good-luck charms because he made the discovery on the first trip the boys had joined their dad for an artifact hunt.

“Now every time I go, they’re going to be there.”

New Officers Elected

On an annual basis our Executive Board selects its officers for the new year. Our Board officers for 2007 are: Bill Beckwith: President; John Dettloff: Vice President; Ted Dzialo: Secretary and Tom Turngren: Treasurer. Our Directors are: Randy Albrecht; Scott Allen; Bill Gautsche; David Perkins; Don Robinson; James Scheer; Harold Tiffany and Wendy Williamson.

We welcome new Board members Dave Perkins and Jim Scheer and congratulate our new officers.

Hall Adds Board Members

On January 11, 2007 our Executive Board approved 2 new members to the Board. Board President Bill Beckwith stated that, “We are delighted to have these two fine gentlemen on our team.”

Dave Perkins is as much at home in a fishing boat or a duck blind as he was greeting exhibitors at his boat and outdoor sport shows. For more than thirty-six years Dave worked for and then became owner and president of General Sport Shows, the company that produced the Minneapolis Boatshow, The Kansas City Sportshow, the Des Moines Sportshow and the Minneapolis Northwest Sportshow.

Dave was not content just promoting consumer trade shows. He wanted to be sure something new and different was offered every year and that visitors could count on having an outdoor adventure at the shows. In the early years it was the stage show complete with trained retrievers, wrestling bears, casting demonstrations and log rolling — just to name a few. Later the shows shifted to fishing and hunting seminars featuring the most respected authorities in the field.

Dave has been a tireless contributor to outdoor causes and has

always made sure there was space in the Boat and Sportshows for hunting, fishing and boating organizations.

In 2005 Dave was elected to the North Central Marine Association Hall of Fame and in 2006 he was recognized for his contributions to the fishing industry by being elected to the Rapala Hall of Fame.

Dave and his wife, Mary, currently make their home in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

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Jim Scheer was born and raised on a resort near Hayward, Wisconsin. Their family was in the resort business from 1922 through the early 1980’s. Jim is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering. After a stint in the Air Force, Jim moved to Chicago and began his long career in the insurance industry. His successful career has allowed him the freedom to champion his life’s passion – the outdoors. His tireless energy has bolstered many hunting and fishing causes.

Jim currently resides with his wife, Anne, in LaGrange, Illinois.

Both Dave and Jim are fine additions to the Executive Board. Both bring with them vitality and the willingness to get things done. Welcome aboard!

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