



For Immediate Release

Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame

Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame Names 2019 Inductees

Little Falls, MN – November 30, 2018 –

Four individuals and two organizations will

be enshrined by the Fishing Hall of Fame of Minnesota in 2019.

Inductees in the Individual Legends category include outdoor sportsperson, TV host, columnist and writer Anne Orth, legendary Lake Winnibigoshish fishing guide Ron Hunter, greater Brainerd lakes area guide, promoter, and tournament winner J.R. 'Coop' Cooper and pioneer guide and mentor to angling legends Harry Van Doren. Women Anglers of Minnesota and Vados Bait and Tackle will join the ranks of Legendary Organizations.

The Hall of Fame annually recognizes up to three individuals and two groups or organizations that have made a major impact on Minnesota's sport fishing industry. The Hall stands to recognize all passionate fishing promoters, whether they have made a difference through education, legislation, guiding, manufacturing, media promotions or other means.

Individuals must be a state resident, have lived in Minnesota for a minimum of 25 years, be at least 50 years of age, and have made meritorious contributions to the sport of fishing. Businesses and organizations may also be nominated, provided they are registered in Minnesota and have made similar noteworthy contributions to fishing. Nominations are accepted from the general public, and the list is reduced to the top ten by current Hall members, after which finalists are voted on for induction.

The Gapen Company believes Anne Orth is one of the most experienced, informed female outdoor sportspersons in America. 'Bobber' Anne, as she's known within the fishing community, has fished extensively throughout North and South America boating trophy northern pike, lake trout, salmon, arctic grayling, bass, tarpon, billfish and the giant catfish of Venezuela. She also gives seminars to children at sports shows on how to fish and is a frequent guest on numerous radio shows.





Ron Hunter has been a fixture on Lake Winnibigoshish for over 40 years. He is not only a fishing guide on this beautiful north-central fishing mecca, Hunter is the person who can provide you with a true angling experience. This is because of his vast knowledge of the resources in the region and the years of experience he has on the water. When it comes to Lake Winnibigoshish and the surrounding lakes and rivers. Hunter is the one guide that you can trust when it comes to a successful trip.

When nominating J. R. Cooper, Jim Kalkofen said the following about Coop: “In my opinion he is one of the all-time greats when it comes to Minnesota fishing. He may own the claim to the most giant pike boated and released in the Brainerd Lakes area. Along with his guiding and lure development, Coop has won more than 75 bass and pike tournaments and many impressive second- and third-place finishes. He’s conducted thousands of seminars, at area resorts in summer and at sport shows in winter. His company connections include Clam, Northland Tackle, and Vexilar.”



Harry Van Doren began his nearly six decades of guiding at age 11, on the 1920 bass opener at Lake Edward, where his family homesteaded and built the lake’s first resort. An impressive array of Minnesota angling greats such as Mr. Walleye Gary Roach, Al Lindner, Ron Lindner and Marv Koep rate Harry Van Doren (1909 – 1980) as an innovative standout angler and guide and credit him with having a huge impact on the sport of fishing. Marv Koep said: “Harry taught me everything I know about walleye fishing.”

Women Anglers of Minnesota was formed in 1977. The formation of the group stemmed from a group of women who wanted to create a peer group for women to fish and gather together. The club was formed with a purpose to educate, empower and support women learning the sport of angling. Since the formation of this organization, women have joined and supported the mission to teach other women and children how to fish, to further cement the future of fishing in the State of Minnesota.





Vados Bait & Tackle has been in business since 1947. Family owned and operated every day of its existence. Greg Fisher and Eric Stokes purchased the bait & tackle store in June 2000. Vados Bait & Tackle has always strived to be the “Best in Baits from the land of lakes”. They wanted the best selection and the best quality live bait on the planet. For the last 69 years Vados has been selling premium live bait and tackle in

the Twin Cities and their current location since 1950. They have many years and generations of very loyal customers coming here and taking out bait literally all over the state and beyond.

Official enshrinement coincides with the Northwest Sport show and is planned for Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Millennium Hotel near the Minneapolis Convention Center. For details, visit www.fishinghalloffamemn.com.

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