

Fishing Hall of Fame inducts three

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Kim Fundingsland/MDN Several members represented the Dakota Anglers Fishing Club of Jamestown, the most recent club inducted into the North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame, Thursday evening in Garrison. From left to right are Gene Van Eeckhout, Ken Cumber, Kay Herrick, Cliff Herrick, Linda Chadduck and Dave Chadduck.

GARRISON – It was very emotional at times. It was obviously rewarding for those who were honored. The North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame inducted three new members Thursday evening.

Added to the hall of fame roster were Duaine Ash and Johnnie Candle, both Devils Lake and the Dakota Anglers Fishing Club of Jamestown. The induction ceremony was held in front of a packed audience in the City Auditorium prior to the rules meeting for the Governor's Cup Walleye Derby. All eyes were fixed on the stage as the inductees were introduced.

Ash was recognized for his long service and support of sport fishing and the preservation of fishing resources in the state. His impressive list of endeavors that have impacted sport fishing in North Dakota includes 10 years as president of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress and chairperson for Friends of Lake Sakakawea. He had always displayed a dedication to help and educate others about fishing, including taking an active role in many youth events.

"It's unbelievable," replied Ash when asked about his inclusion in the North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame. "I didn't think I would ever get anything like this. It means the world to me."

During his acceptance speech Ash encouraged others to get involved in fishing clubs and youth fishing events. He added that he was flattered to be included in the impressive list of hall of fame members.



Kim Fundingsland/MDN Johnnie Candle, left, and Duaine Ash, both Devils Lake, were inducted into the North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame Thursday evening in Garrison. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Governor's Cup Walleye Derby.

"It's an honor. To be up there with them is really an accomplishment," said a humble Ash.

Candle is one of the best known fishing personalities in North Dakota. However, he is also known as one of the foremost promoters of fishing through numerous educational efforts. Candle is always willing to help others develop and improve their fishing skills. He has been the president of the Lake Region Anglers since 2012, won the MWC World Walleye Championship in 2010 and has been a professional fishing guide for more than 28 years.

"This caught me out of left field. I was never thinking about a hall of fame of any sort," said Candle shortly after his induction. *"I was never, ever looking for any kind of acknowledgment like this. Holy cow! It's pretty special and makes me think about all the other people that helped me get here."*

Candle's emotions spilled out for a moment while he was addressing the crowd of competitive walleye anglers. They broke out in loud applause, showing their appreciation of someone who shares a passion for their sport and allowing Candle a moment to gather his thoughts.

"It kind of hits you all at once," remarked Candle. *"It's over-whelming. It really is."*

Also recognized for induction into the hall was the Dakota Anglers Fishing Club of Jamestown. The Dakota Anglers have exemplified their club countless times in fulfilling their mission of encouraging and promoting good fellowship and sportsmanship, conservation and improvement of all sport fisheries, and fishing education of club members and the general public.

Gene Van Eeckhout, himself an inductee into the Fishing Hall of Fame in 2014 and a charter member of the club formed in 1976, applauded club members for their accomplishments.

"They've invested a lot of money in the three to five county area. They've been a wealth of manpower and financial support for various projects," remarked Van Eeckhout. *"They've focused a lot on public fishing access."*

Kay Herrick, a long-time club member, spoke on behalf of the club.

"It's a big honor. It's humbling," said Herrick. *"The Dakota Anglers have been doing good things since 1977. It's nice to be recognized."*

Herrick has been involved with the club's *"Little Britches"* kids fishing derby since 1982. The Dakota Anglers join Fargo-Moorhead Walleyes Unlimited and the Lake Region Anglers of Devils Lake on the list of fishing club's honored by the hall.

The North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame is located at North Country Marine in Garrison. In addition to numerous fishing items on display are portraits and information on inductees. Nomination forms for future consideration of possible induction into the hall, and more information concerning the North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame, can be found at ndfishinghalloffame.org.