

Nominations are Now Being Accepted for the 2006 Class of Inductees for the International Whitewater Hall of Fame

McHenry, MD March 1, 2006

The International Whitewater Hall of Fame (IWHOF) has announced that the acceptance period for nominations for the 2006 Class of Inductees is now open. Nominations will be accepted from Affiliate Organizations through May 5, 2006. The paddling public is encouraged to contact their affiliates to participate in the nomination process. A listing of the affiliates can be found on the IWHOF website through a link on www.adventuresportscenter.com along with the nomination criteria for the inductee categories: Pioneer, Explorer, Champion, and Advocate.

The Inaugural Class of the Hall of Fame was inducted in October 2005 with seven Honorees:

Pioneer

Bob McNair (Massachusetts): wrote THE manual for basic river canoeing techniques; instrumental in forming American Whitewater Affiliation uniting clubs across America; key proponent for forming American Canoe Association Slalom Committee.

Explorer

Rob Lesser (Idaho): set the standard for exploratory kayaking on big, Class V, water; first to run the Grand Canyon of the Stikine in Northern Canada, the North Fork of the Payette; several first descents on difficult rivers in U.S. and Canada.

Champion

Davey Hearn (Maryland): two time World Champion gold medalist in single canoe (C-1), six times team gold, and eight times a silver medalist; dominating force in canoe slalom producing paddling techniques and boat design innovations over a 26 year competitive career; holder of Top 10 Sportsman of The Year award by U.S. Olympic Committee.

Jon Luginbill (Virginia): only athlete in history to have won 12 World Championship gold medals; recognized as best paddler ever in whitewater canoeing (C-1) competition; NBC commentator in two Olympics; winner of Wheaties "Search for Champions"; U.S. Olympic Top 10 Sportsman of The Year and several other national awards.

Advocate

Payson Kennedy (North Carolina): co-founded Nantahala Outdoor Center built it into the largest outdoor education/training center the world; won six National championships in two-man canoe (C-2); ardent supporter of slalom and wild water racing helping to produce several U.S. Olympic racers.

Charles Walbridge (West Virginia): work in whitewater safety and rescue saved countless lives and is known and replicated worldwide; numerous accomplishments and contributions including safety/rescue devices, active participation in speaking engagements and publications over 40 years; many national honors.

Life Time Achievement Award

Established and sponsored by the Adventure Sports Center International (ASCI) Board of Directors was awarded to Bill Endicott in recognition and honor for his outstanding and substantial life-long contributions to whitewater sports and related activities nationally and internationally.

Bill Endicott (Maryland): U.S. Whitewater Team Coach for 16 years. Endicott has vastly influenced whitewater slalom in the US and Internationally for 30 years. Endicott coached athletes who won 57 medals in World Championship, World Cup, and Olympic competitions, 27 of them gold. Endicott co-created the Canoe Slalom World Cup featuring multiple major international competitions held on at least two continents every year since 1988. Author of five books: two on whitewater, one on whitewater racing history, one on wild water racing, and a sprint racing book.

About IWHOF and ASCI

The International Whitewater Hall of Fame and Museum, being constructed as part of ASCI's Adventure Sports Center, recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant accomplishments in and contributions to whitewater related activities. The history, development and major achievements made in these activities will be depicted through displays of related equipment, art, artifacts, mementos, etc. Interactive and virtual components will further enhance the museum experience.

ASCI is a non-profit organization with a mission to create an International Adventure Sports Center that is recognized as a focal point in the emerging and expanding adventures sports industry. The Center, located in McHenry, Maryland, works to promote, educate, and facilitate participation in a wide range of adventure-based recreational activities and competitions. The outdoor sports complex, slated to open in 2007, features a central village complex, the region's first re-circulating whitewater course, a 600-seat amphitheater, and 550 acres of trails and recreational venues.

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