

International Women's Fishing Association 2006 Awards

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The International Women's Fishing Association is an elite organization of female anglers from all over the world. This prestigious angling club has been setting rigid standards in all arenas of fishing since 1955. Some of the biggest names in women's fishing are members of this club, such as world record angler, Gene Duval, the "High Priestess of stand up fishing," Marsha Bierman, and world record angler and founder of the IGFA, Kay Rybovich.

I joined the IWFA after prodding by my mentor, the late Dr. Jim Wright, who felt I should join the organization in order to associate and compete with other women with similar angling abilities and passion for the sport. These women are true sportsmen who are top notch, and world-class anglers. This club has presented as one of my greatest challenges, with very stringent rules and tough competition, comparable to those of the IGFA.

I joined in May of 2006, five months into the year. I was hoping to just learn the ropes and become acquainted with the other members. My first and biggest impression of these elite ladies was how friendly and supportive they are. They were actually very pleased when I joined, and I received many supportive and motivational correspondences from many members. This was a breath of fresh air, and I felt I had found my place among other competent, skilled lady anglers who accepted me as an equal and a colleague.

This weekend I flew to Fort Lauderdale to accept one of the top three IWFA trophies. Two of three of these trophies were earned by Virginia anglers. This is quite an accomplishment, and I am thrilled. I am more excited about this prestigious award, than many of my other angling achievements. These ladies were so wonderful, and I had a great time. I also had the opportunity to meet and chat with my icon, Marsha Bierman, which was the highlight of my trip! She is such a lovely person, and tolerated my fascination with her with such grace! She even invited me to sit with her during the awards banquet.

Here is a listing of the IWFA awards:

TROPHIES:

Anne D. Crowninshield Trophy

(Member who earns the most release points): Becky Reynolds-Wright, Dania Beach, FL

Kay Rybovich Trophy

(Member who enters the most variety of fish): Gene Duval, Richmond, VA

Ginny Sherwood Trophy

(Member who earns the most weight points): Dr. Julie Ball, Virginia Beach, VA

RELEASE AWARDS:

Barracuda: Becky Reynolds-Wright
Black Sea Bass: Dr. Julie Ball
Largemouth Bass: Beth Falwell
Smallmouth Bass: Beth Falwell
Bluefish: Dr. Julie Ball
Bluegill: Judy Gamble
Dolphin fish: Judy Gamble
Red Drum: Susan Gros
Gag Grouper: Gene Duval
Red Grouper: Gene Duval
Jack Crevelle: Maria Succop
Ladyfish: Maria Succop
Spanish Mackerel: Lorraine Francis
Striped Marlin: Martha MacNab
Oscar: Gussie Leech
Butterfly Peacock: Becky Reynolds-Wright
Speckled Peacock: Becky Reynolds-Wright
Yellow Perch: Judy Gamble
Black/Blue Rockfish: Gene Duval
Spotted Seatrout: Connie O'Day
Whaler Shark: Gussie Leech
Yellowtail Snapper: Becky Reynolds-Wright
Atlantic Snook: Ann Dever
Brown Trout: Beth Boutell
Cutthroat Trout: Suzanne Peachin
Rainbow Trout: Beth Boutell

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Anne C. Kunkel Newcomer Award

(May be earned within the first three years of joining): Betsy Bullard

Bobbie Dale Memorial Award

(The most released bonefish): Mary Holt

Booth Plug Casting Award

(The most points catching fish on a plug): Connie O'Day

Fleming Special Tournament Award

(The most tournament points): Joan Vernon

Fly Fishing Release Award:

(The most released on the fly): Gwen Hawn

Gini Ferguson Memorial Award

(The most released sailfish): Lisa Everret

Overall Fly Fishing Award

(The most fish caught on a fly): Beth Boutell

Sellian Pacific Sailfish Release Award

(The most pacific sailfish released): Gretchen Manley

