

USA WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS FOUNDATION



38th ANNUAL

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, April 24th
Davenport, Florida

To view online, go to:
<https://youtu.be/KwTo2jkN14A>

Martha Santiago, Ed. D.
Commissioner, District 4



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Board of County Commissioners

April 6, 2021

On behalf of the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, I welcome you to the Central Florida Visitor Information Center and the 2021 USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Our history with the sport is a long and storied one. Water skiers on any of our nearly 600 bodies of water were as common then as they are today. But thanks to visionary Dick Pope and Cypress Gardens, what was a hobby to many became not just a sport but a way of life.

We salute all of the honorees this evening for their contribution to the sport and we are honored to have the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Hall of Fame call our Visitor Information Center home. We hope you and your families return next year as we celebrate the sport's 100th anniversary, as well as host the 2022 IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament. You'll quickly see why Polk County is the "Water Ski Capitol of the World".

Sincerely,

Martha Santiago, Ed. D.
Tourist Development Council Chair
and Polk County Commissioner, District 4

38TH WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONIES

6:00 ^{PM} Museum Opening and Social

7:00 ^{PM} Hall of Fame Program

Welcome – Mark Jackson

Introduction – Hank Longo, Master of Ceremonies

A New Era for the Foundation

Ed Hickey, USA-WWF President

Lifetime Achievement Award

Ed Brazil (Video)

Lives Well Lived, On the Water

Award of Distinction

- Eddie Roberts – Eddie Roberts Jr. accepts
- Nikki Lee
- Don Mixon, Jr.
- Gene Davis – Sharon Davis accepts
- April Coble Eller

Hall of Fame

- Shaun Murray
- Mandy Nightingale
- Joe Ray

Closing remarks – Mark Jackson

2020 HALL OF FAME CEREMONY MC



Hank has a personality that's larger than life... with a heart to match. And his heart belongs to the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Hall of Fame. We wouldn't be here without Hank.

When Covid hit in 2020, we lost our staff and our way. This Writer, Water Skier and Celebrity Host almost single-handedly saved our museum's memorabilia, moving it all to a new temperature-controlled storage unit in his old pick-up truck. He mowed the lawn at the property on Lake Myrtle without being asked, and took up the reins of guiding our way back to the Hall of Fame Ceremony.

Hank is a world-ranked water ski jumper, national jump champion and national jump record holder, produced and performed a world stunt record on ABC's "That's Incredible!"

But to us, Hank is just plain Incredible. Thanks Hank!

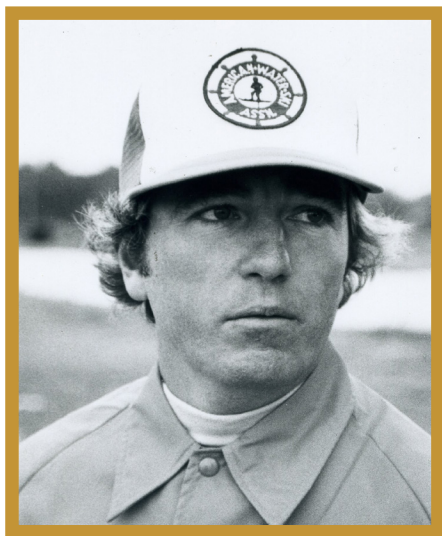
SCHOLARSHIPS

The USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation's scholarships are awarded each year to individuals who show leadership abilities and demonstrate how their involvement in the sport has helped them grow both personally and academically.

- **Barbara Bolding/Jim Grew Scholarship**
Krista Butterfield, Sherman, TX
- **"Banana George" Blair Ambassador Scholarship**
Zach Butterfield, Sherman, TX
- **Elmer Stailing Southern Region Scholarship**
Anna Gay, Winter Garden, FL
- **"Big Al" Wagner Western Region Scholarship**
Landon Geels, Westminster, CO
- **Tim Olson Memorial Scholarship**
Grace Petzold of Mequon, WI
- **Jennifer Odom/Dave Kammerer Memorial Scholarship**
Alex Youngblood, Highland, MI
- **Jim Grew Boys 1 Overall Scholarship**
Jaxen Stabel of Chico, CA
- **Jim Grew Girls 1 Overall Scholarship**
Marley Pavur, Santa Fe, TX
- **Barbara Bolding/Jim Grew Boys 2 Scholarship**
BG Bickley, Macon, GA
- **Barbara Bolding/Jim Grew Girls 2 Scholarship**
Kamryn Massey, Lakeland, FL
- **Dutch Brothers Coffee Boys 3 Scholarship**
Chase Sparks, Dallas, GA
- **Drake & Associates Girls 3 Scholarship**
Emma Davis, Oviedo, FL
- **Dr. JD Morgan Boys 4 Scholarship**
Carter Reese, Walnut Creek, CA
- **Linda Giddens Girls 4 Scholarship**
Kendra Nathan, Canyon Lake, CA
- **Dr. JD Morgan Boys 5 Scholarship**
Blaze Grubbs, Rio Linda, CA
- **Linda Giddens Girls 5 Scholarship**
Kristen Baldwin, Winter Garden, FL

2020 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

EDWARD BRAZIL



Ed Brazil served the sport for more than 50 years and was internationally known and sought after for his technical expertise. It is estimated that he supervised installing or adjusting more than 500 slalom and jump courses during his career. Among his several innovations, he is believed to be the first person to write a computer program for a 3-point slalom course survey; developed a

radar-computer interface to figure distance to 36 mph and deviation in the slalom course; came up with the 55-meter pre-gate buoys and did the centerline deviation estimates using his survey instrument; worked on jump course design, including the 60-foot spacing buoy and 500-foot cutout buoy; and came up with the rule to specify the jump ramp by slope or height/length and made the first graph for it.

He was the Chief Technical Controller at the Moomba Masters from 1982-1991 and he was Chief Technical Controller of the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He served on the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation's Hall of Fame Selection Committee for 22 years, and was chairman of the committee for 12 years. He was the 1995 recipient of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports' Award of Merit, the organization's highest honor for volunteerism.

2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

SHAUN MURRAY



Shaun Murray was a four-time world champion wakeboarder. He was born on April 28, 1976 in Mission Viejo, Calif., and started water skiing at the age of 8. In 1988, he moved with his family to Lake St. Louis, Mo., where he honed his skills as a member of the Lake St. Louis Water Ski Club.

After graduating from high school, he moved to Florida to compete for the Florida Southern College water ski team and teach water skiing at the Benzel Ski School. His wakeboarding career started in 1995 and was full of innovation and accomplishment, including many pro tour and world championship titles. Murray invented several wakeboard tricks, including the Bel Air, Tweety Bird, Square Raley, Crook, Crow 5, Heelside frontside and more. He promoted his own "Backyard Tour" with pro rider and friend Gerry Nunn; has been featured in many wakeboard movies, magazine and television pieces; created his own wakeboard instructional series entitled "Detention;" and was the star of his own video game, Wakeboarding Unleashed. In the summer of 2004, Murray dislocated his knee while riding. He tore his ACL, PCL, and MCL. After reconstructive surgery he was told he might not ride again. But, just months later he was back riding. He helped develop signature products that include boats, wakeboards, life jackets, wet suits and clothing lines. Murray was the first wakeboarder to land a 900 (Regular Heelside) in a competition, and he is the only rider ever to hold World, Pro Tour and National Championship titles in the same year.

2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

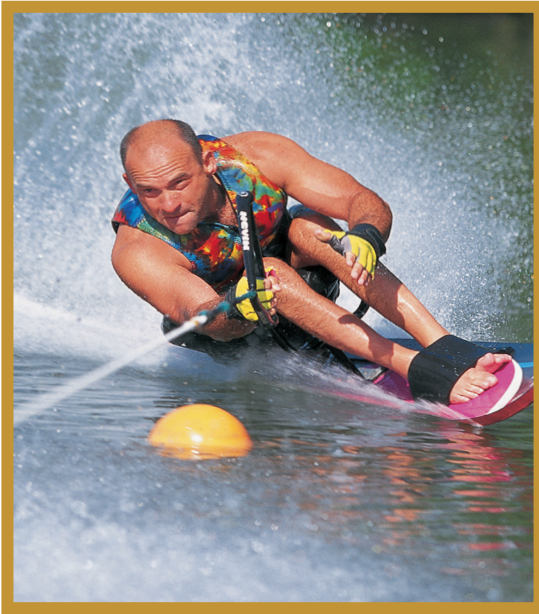
MANDY NIGHTINGALE



While considered a formidable three-event water ski athlete, Mandy Nightingale was one of the greatest trick skiers of her era, winning back-to-back world championships in 2003 and 2005, and establishing a world record of 8,740 points in 2006. She was a five-time champion of the U.S. Open and two-time champion of the Masters. She was named USA Water Ski & Wake Sports' Female Athlete of the Year in 2007 when she competed on two U.S. water ski teams and collected four individual medals in the process. She also won women's tricks titles that year at the Australian Open and U.S. Open and swept both events of the IWWF Water Ski World Cup. At the 2007 Pan American Games, she earned the silver medal in tricks and bronze medals in slalom and jumping. At the 2007 Water Ski World Championships, she was the lone U.S. team member to win an individual medal, earning the bronze in tricks.

2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

JOE RAY



Joe Ray announced his retirement from competition at age 59 following the conclusion of the 2017 Disabled Water Ski World Championships. Competing in the MP2 Division from 1998-2016, Ray won 34 gold medals, seven silver medals and four bronze medals at the U.S. Disabled Water

Ski National Championships. He was a 10-time national MP2 overall champion. As a nine-time member of the U.S. Disabled Water Ski Team, he won 13 gold medals, six silver medals and five bronze medals at the Disabled Water Ski World Championships. He was a three-time world MP2 overall champion and a member of five gold-medal winning U.S. Disabled Water Ski Teams. He set six MP2 world slalom records and he was the first MP2 water skier to run the outer course. At the only two Disabled Pan American Championships held, he won the overall gold medal both times in Seated Men. He was a six-time recipient of the Water Skiers with Disabilities Association's Male Athlete of the Year award.



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2020 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

APRIL COBLE ELLER



April Coble Eller won 30 national water ski titles, winning the 1990 Junior Worlds (slalom and overall), 1992 Collegiate Nationals (slalom and overall), 1996 Moomba Masters (overall), 1997 Masters (overall), 2010 Malibu Open (slalom) and 2014 35+ Worlds (slalom). She was selected USA Water Ski & Wake Sports' Female Athlete of the Year in 1990, 1997 and 2008, and USA Water Ski & Wake Sports' National Coach of the Year in 2004.

2020 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

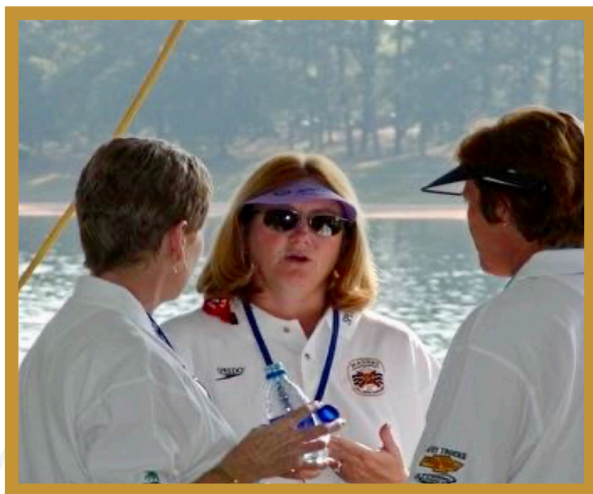
GENE DAVIS

Gene Davis, who passed away after a brief illness in January 2019, was a jumper in local, regional and national competitions. He was a senior judge and was a very sought-after technical controller for record tournaments, including the Masters, Water Ski National Championships and Water Ski World Championships. He was chairman of the American Water Ski Association's Technical Committee for many years, a past AWSA president, the executive vice president of AWSA's Southern Region from 1997-2002, and was instrumental in bringing the technical standards up to their current standards and had taught many the tricks of the trade.



2020 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

NIKKI LEE



Nikki Lee is a longtime AWSA tournament official and board member. She has served as chief judge at numerous international events over the past 30 years, including the 2003 Pan American Games, 2004 World University Games, 2009 World Games, 2011 Water Ski World Championships and 2017 Under 21 Water Ski World Championships, in addition to the Masters, U.S. Open and IWWF Water Ski World Cup. She was a member of the AWSA and USA Water Ski & Wake Sports board of directors from 1990-2005 and served on the AWSA International Activities, Rules and Awards committees. She was a recipient of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports' Award of Merit, the organization's highest honor for volunteerism, in 2010.

2020 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

DON MIXON, JR.



Don Mixon Jr. won the 1981 Junior Boys national barefoot slalom and overall titles and his scores were high enough to put him into the Open Men Division at the tender age of 13. As an Open Men competitor, he competed in every Barefoot Nationals until 1996, with the exception of the 1995 national championships due to injury. He was a member of every U.S. Barefoot Team from 1984 to 1996. He contributed points in every world championships he competed in and

his contributions helped the U.S team win gold at every world championships in which he was a team member. As an individual competitor, he captured the silver medal in slalom at the 1985 and 1994 Barefoot Worlds. A slalom specialist, he set the world slalom record four times. He also was the first barefooter to do a front-to-back positional turn before his back slalom pass and the first barefooter to do a wake 360 turn (unwrapped) in a tournament. He won the Open Men national slalom title in 1985 and 1994, and the Open Men national jumping title in 1996.

2020 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

EDDIE ROBERTS

Eddie Roberts' involvement in the industry dates back to the 1960s. He helped O'Brien, H.O. Sports and Radar Skis achieve world prominence. He was responsible for many notable innovations in water ski and wakeboard equipment. He also volunteered immeasurable hours at tourna-



ments, clinics, clubs, and trade shows promoting the sport. A well-known personality in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California water ski communities, his encouraging and jovial demeanor has been an inspiration to water sports enthusiasts of all ages. Eddie passed away in 2019.

HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE

Jeff Clark (Chair)

Scott Atkinson

Mike Avila

Cyndi Benzel

Rhoni Bishoff

Betsy Anderson Gilman

Frank Harrison

Rachel George Normand

Lynn Novakofski

Robert W. Reich

Gary Warren

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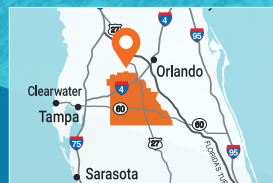
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WATER SKIING
100
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WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS
FOUNDATION

