

## Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Class of 2011

The bronze plaque mounted to the exterior wall of the museum states:

*Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. To recognize and honor those individuals and groups who have significantly enhanced the culture of fly fishing.*

As with past and present, nominations after a process of in depth review of noted contributions affecting the climate and culture of fly fishing, the Hall of Fame committee announced the 2011 class of the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. They are identified in the following thumbnail bio's. These individuals will be recognized at a ceremony and reception at 3PM in the museum and a dinner following at Kings Catering on October 8, 2011.

The Hall of Fame committee thanks all of you who have and continue to provide information and nominations.

**Roderick Haig-Brown:** 1908-1976, an English-born, naturalist, fly fisher, author, philosopher, magistrate, educator and ardent conservationist, Haig-Brown spent most of his adult life in British Columbia fishing for trout, salmon and steelhead. Blessed with a graceful pen, he put words to deeds and actions that the non-angler could not only understand, but also truly appreciate.

He penned almost 30 books, including such noted works as *A River Never Sleeps* and the remarkable 4-book series: *Fisherman's Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter* and wrote innumerable essays and articles for outdoor magazines and journals. He pioneered a fundamental environmental awareness and appreciation for the beauty and wildlife of the Pacific Northwest amongst the populace of B.C., which ultimately helped to preserve the precious resources in the Campbell River watershed, the Adams' River steelhead runs, and king salmon in the Nimpkish River.

**Barry & Cathy Beck:** Pennsylvania natives Barry and Cathy Beck are the husband and wife photojournalist team that exemplifies the best of the old and the new world of fly fishing. From their simple roots running a fly shop on the small freestone Fishing Creek near Benton, PA and fishing with the likes of Vince Marinaro on Falling Spring Run they have since traveled the world together, hosting adventure-travel fly fishing expeditions and teaching modern fly casting techniques.

They continue to take breath-taking angling pictures that change the way we view the fly fishing world with their photographs. The Becks have scored hundreds of print magazine covers and articles, fishing catalogs, websites, and are now populating the exploding new world of Internet virtual fly fishing e-zines. They have authored numerous books, including *The Blue Ribbon Guide to PA Trout Streams*, *Seasons on the Bighorn* and the *Outdoor Photographers' Handbook*.

**John Alden Knight:** 1890-1966, banker, syndicated writer, fly-tier, hunter, naturalist, casting expert, angling filmmaker and developer of the Solunar Tables, "Jack" Knight, as he was known by his friends, helped popularize a simple yellow & red bucktail streamer (a.k.a. "The Assassin"), which he redubbed the "Mickey Finn" because of its ability to knock-out brookies and rainbow trout. Knight was friends with Hewitt, Jennings, LaBranche and Alfred "Sparse Gray Hackle" Miller, spending much time developing his fly fishing & tying expertise on the Beaverkill, Neversink, Esopus and Brodhead River with these noted gentleman. His love of hunting and the natural world held him to be an early proponent of catch & release: "one nice thing about fishing – you can always put 'em back."

His greatest legacy was methodically codifying the rhythmic effects of the sun and moon phases on fish (and game) into peaks and troughs by longitude and latitude in his Solunar Tables developed in 1926 and published in 1936 to immediate acclaim (and some scoffing). In addition to several noted hunting books, he is also remembered for his books *The Theory And Technique of Fresh Water Angling*, *The Complete Book of Fly Casting* and *Modern Fly Casting*.

**Doug Swisher & Carl Richards:** In 1971, this dynamic duo turned the fly fishing world on its collective hare's ear by marrying the science of entomology with fly-tying in the book *Selective Trout*. In it, they introduced a radical new concept to dry fly fishing, the no-hackle dry fly, giving picky trout an imitation fly with a more convincing, natural silhouette; and anglers a new arsenal of deadly fly patterns.

Championed by Joe Brooks in *Outdoor Life* and drawing upon the works of such legends as Flick, Schwiebert and Marinaro, these two gentleman went all over the eastern and western US trout streams collecting bugs, taking pictures, classifying their finding and then developing entirely new types of life-like trout flies. Under the critical eye of the editor, Nick Lyons, they produced for Crown Publishing the largest selling fly fishing book at 200,000+ copies. They went on to write well-received follow-up books like: *Fly-Fishing Strategy*, *Stoneflies*, and *Emergers*.