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**“CONNECTICUT FISHING & OUTDOOR SHOW’S”  
AL GAG NAMED TO 2024 INTERNATIONAL FRESH WATER FISHING HALL OF FAME  
One of Only Six People Honored Worldwide**



**CANTON, CONN., December 1, 2023 – Al Gag (a/k/a Albert Gagliarducci), a headliner at the yearly “Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show” at Mohegan Sun, is one of only six individuals named to the prestigious 2024 International Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.** A resident of Wilbraham, Mass., Gag is a successful custom lure designer, fishing instructor, TV broadcaster, and is the owner of Al Gag’s Lures in Indian Orchard, Mass.

“We are extremely pleased that our longtime friend Al Gag has been recognized with this extraordinary honor and his installation into this prestigious Hall of Fame will take place in a ceremony at our show in March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Mohegan Sun,” says Kristie Gonsalves, Producer of the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show at Mohegan Sun. “Fishing is the highlight of our annual three-day family event that showcases a wide variety of outdoor activities including freshwater and saltwater fishing, hunting, kayaking, paddle boards, safaris, hunting dog training, and more,” says Gonsalves, who also is the President of North East Expos, Inc., a Past President of the National Association of Consumer Show Producers, and is the Producer of the successful Connecticut Flower & Garden Show in Hartford. “Our show is designed for longtime fishing and outdoor enthusiasts, as well as anyone who wants to learn more about angling and other kinds of outdoor adventure,” she adds.

“This recognition is bestowed on those who have spent a great share of their lives promoting, educating, and sharing their passion for fresh water fishing in a manner that positively impacts the sport for the millions of anglers around the world,” explains Emmett Brown, Executive Director of the Hayward, Wisc.-based International Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, the international headquarters for education, recognition and promotion of fresh water sportfishing. “There are many who love to fish, but few that can be considered Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Famers.”

In addition to Al Gag, the 2024 International Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame honorees are: Tim Huffman of Arkansas; Jerry Martin of Illinois; Bill Murphy of California; Dan Small of Wisconsin; and Roger Stegall of Mississippi.

In announcing their selections, the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame states that Gag’s first foray into making his own lures involved melting lead in a smelting pot in the backyard of his two-room rental apartment and pouring it into his hand-made plaster-of-paris molds. Details were hand painted using a collection of his wife's nail polish.

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Throughout his career, Gag has produced both freshwater and saltwater lures in plastic, soft plastic, and wood. His first lure design was the Shad Dart in 1978. Lures that followed included Eel Tails, Needle Fish, Darters, the 5-inch and 7-inch Mambo Minnow, Floating Rattle Popper, Super Mack, Mr. Bunker, and the Slammer Lure. In the late 2000s, Gag designed his Whip It Fish and Whip It Eel, along with his patented dual action Jig Head. In 2024, he will introduce his new Twitch-It Eel.

Gag’s love for promoting angling has extended beyond his lure businesses. He has been involved with many fishing organizations through sponsorships and promotions. In 1990, he created a Friday evening segment on NBC affiliate WWLP-TV 22 in Springfield, Mass. called *Gone Fishing*. Each show was rebroadcast the following Monday morning, and he created over 700 episodes during an 11-year run. He then hosted a similar news segment on ABC affiliate WGGB-TV 40 called Let’s Go Fishing that ran for almost four years.

**For more information about the International Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, visit [www.freshwater-fishing.org](http://www.freshwater-fishing.org).**

**For more information about the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show at Mohegan Sun, visit [www.CTFishingOutdoorShow](http://www.CTFishingOutdoorShow) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishingOutdoorShow) or 860-844-8461. Speakers, Demonstrators and Exhibitors interested in registering for the event should contact Kristie Gonsalves at 860-844-8461, or email [Kristie@northeastexpos.com](mailto:Kristie@northeastexpos.com), or visit [www.CTFishingOutdoorShow.com](http://www.CTFishingOutdoorShow.com).**

**NORTH EAST EXPOS, INC.**, *producer of this event, is a decades old, family-owned company in Canton, Conn. that also produces the popular “Connecticut Flower & Garden Show” at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford to take place on Thursday, February 22 through Sunday, February 25, 2024. To register as an exhibitor for that event, contact Kristie Gonsalves at 860-844-8461 or email [Kristie@northeastexpos.com](mailto:Kristie@northeastexpos.com), or visit [www.ctflowershow.com](http://www.ctflowershow.com).*

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