

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association (WIFA) Announces 2016-2017 High School team of the year award

Congratulations to Neenah High School for earning the WIFA inaugural team of the year award. Considered by many to be one of the state's premier high school fishing programs, the Neenah fishing team has made a big impact on the WIFA community, the Neenah Joint School District and the state of Wisconsin. Since its official inception in 2014, the team has grown to over 40 members, earned multiple accolades on the ice, including 2nd & 3rd place in the WIFA championship this year on the Red Cedar Chain. But this group of young anglers is more than just a competitive fishing team. They are involved in a variety of fishing related activities both youth and adults and participate in several environmental projects. The team has hosted several "Reel Choices" fishing outings with local elementary schools and "learn to ice" events with middle school students. They have co-hosted two Memory Cafe' fishing events for adults with Alzheimers and served as WIFA student representatives promoting high school fishing at the WIAA Athletic Directors Conference. The team also has an environmental focus, with an emphasis, working with the city of Neenah on its redevelopment and revitalization of A Park on Little Lake Butte des Morts. Each of the last four years, the team also has been involved in the annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Clean up and yearly stream monitoring. With a strong environmental ethic, and a passion for sharing a love of fishing with others, the team continues to find creative ways to spread the word about the WIFA and high school fishing. This was evident during the Neenah Homecoming parade as team members, wearing their snow camo sweatshirts and waving to the crowd, were escorted through the parade route on a WIFA sponsor boat. For coaches Chris Jones and Kris Lulloff, the award was equally meaningful and inspiring. According to Jones, "This group had a dream of starting a fishing team from the time they were in 7th grade. With supportive administration at multiple grade levels, they were able to make that dream a reality and then able to showcase the dynamic impact a fishing team can have in a school." Lulloff agreed, "These students have great pride in their sport, their school, their team and the community they represent. To win the WIFA team of the year is a fantastic way to recognize the many individuals who have played an important role in the development and success of this amazing group of young anglers." The Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association, est. 2015 serves as the states premier organization promoting high school fishing and is comprised of more than 90 schools throughout Wisconsin. More information regarding the WIFA can be found at studentfishing.com or on their Facebook page.