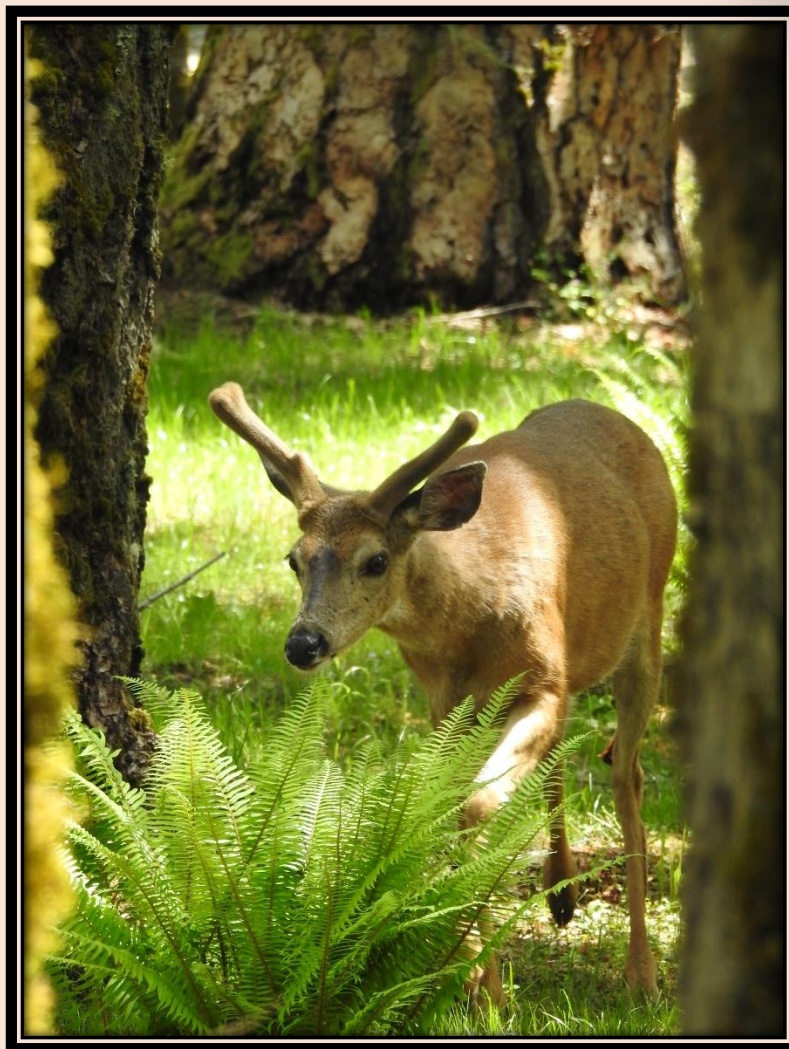


# NOWA FIELD NOTES

**JUNE/JULY 2022**



*A NEW PRESIDENT – REASONS TO BE A NOWA MEMBER - LOTS OF MEMBER NEWS – A SUPPORTING MEMBER SPOTLIGHT- A FISHING INDUSTRY GIANT PASSES – SECOND CHANCE TURKEY, A GREAT CRAFT IMPROVEMENT ARTICLE*

## **NOWA FIELD NOTES – JUNE/JULY 2022**

### ***NOWA FIELD NOTES***

The NOWA newsletter is published six times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501 c3 Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo portfolios, news items, letters to the editor and more are welcome but cannot be compensated. Send submissions by email in Microsoft WORD format. Photos can be sent in JPEG Format. The Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to the next edition being published. Send them to:

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**THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO – Gary Lewis – Blacktail Buck**

### ***NOWA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND MORE***

The NOWA website can be found at <http://nowaoutdoors.com>

Website Editor - Dave Kilhefner Email: [Dave@kbi-ins.com](mailto:Dave@kbi-ins.com)

The NOWA Facebook Page can be found at [www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/](http://www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/)



#### **OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT – Bill Luscombe**

**VICE PRESIDENT –**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER – Risa Wyatt/Dave Kilhefner**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD – Dave Kilhefner**

#### **DIRECTORS**

**EXPIRING 2023 – Joe Warren, Risa Wyatt, Natalie Bartley**

**EXPIRING 2024 -**

**SUPPORTING MEMBER LIASON – Michelle Peters**

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***



Well, here we go again. I am, once again, reluctantly, your president. I say reluctantly because I am so busy, I am fearful of not being able to do the position, or you my dear friends, justice. However, as the old saying goes “You give time to what is important to you.” I know that’s a bad paraphrase, but you know what I mean.

On another note, I suspect I am the last Canadian member of NOWA. I’m very grateful that the COVID restrictions for crossing the border are easing off, I would like to come see some of you if even for a board meeting face to face. I’m very tired of ZOOM. Seattle works for me. I’ll have to chat with the board and see what we can come up with.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)***

In thinking about our membership, I was cogitating on the possibilities awhile back and thought about how our ways of communicating have, and still are, changing. Social media and electronic communications such as Telegram (the App) and Face Time as well as the tried-and-true Facebook and Twitter are the “go to” processes now. I’m not there. I don’t do social media. I did and I gave up on it. It was just too time consuming. However, having said that a majority of the younger generation (younger than me) are on it constantly, so much so that they are lacking in social skills when it comes to face-to-face communication. I heard there is now a course offered in basic communication (how to talk to another human face to face). Who would have ever thought that that was possible? Anyway, my point is we need a few NOWA members who are active and experienced in the realms of social media to step up and do some brainstorming on how NOWA might make contact with people who love the outdoors and write about it, but who are part of the electronic communication generation. Then try to figure out what would attract them to join an association like NOWA. Maybe from there we could discuss in-house options. Something to think about anyway. I wonder how OWAA and OWC are doing that way?

Becoming president brings some deep sadness with it. My good friend Dennis Clay is no longer here to help me out. I loved Dennis. We had so many wonderful talks and hilarious times together at the Annual Conventions. But we carry on. Thanks for placing your trust in me. I hope I can make you proud.

- Bill Luscombe

## ***FROM THE EDITOR – WHY JOIN OR STAY IN NOWA?***



We haven't had a conference since 2019 and it's been longer than that since we've seen any organized FAM trips for NOWA members. These facts may have you asking the question, why should I continue being a member of NOWA?

There are actually several reasons to stick around and convince others to join. They include:

## ***THE BENEFITS OF BEING A NOWA MEMBER (CONT)***



**PRESS CREDENTIALS** – As a vetted member of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association you are a bona fide member of the media and that card you get in the mail opens doors that would otherwise remain closed. One example of this is SHOT Show, put on every year by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a long-time supporting member. If you don't have press credentials to show them, you won't be getting into this monster show as a member of the media and unless you have a job in the firearms industry, you won't be getting in at all.

**RECOGNITION** – Our annual Excellence in Craft contests allow you to see how you stack up against the rest of our members as a writer, photographer, videographer or broadcaster. Winning an EIC Award is a big deal. Not only has your work been recognized as one of the best our members submitted, but it also comes with some prize money. In addition to this, an EIC award gives you some serious "Street Cred" that you really ought to flaunt. When I wrote my one and only guidebook several years ago and won an Excellence in Craft award from NOWA, the local Hastings store manager was very happy for me. She had stickers for award-winning books and told me they definitely help with sales because the reader knows they are about to purchase a very well written book.

**NETWORKING** – You've heard the phrase before, "It's not what you know, it's who you know" and that is oh-so-true in the outdoors industry. As a NOWA member you have a leg up when it comes to getting assignments from editors who are NOWA members or have worked with NOWA members who are willing to make an introduction on your behalf. I've seen this work many times with editors and other decision makers in the outdoors industry. They are routinely inundated with a stack of queries and requests but they often give the writing or photo assignment or product or a trip to the member of a professional media organization that they either know or have one of their established freelancers from vouch for.

**PROFESSIONAL HELP AND ADVICE** – Continuing with well worn phrases, "You don't know what you don't know." Perhaps the greatest advantage of being a NOWA member is being able to go to more experienced members, to include those who are retired, and ask them for advice about how to do certain tasks, take better photos, put together a project, or figure out what equipment they recommend you use as an aspiring photographer, podcaster or videographer. There is a wealth of hard-earned knowledge amongst our membership, but I have noticed that just about every member is willing to share that knowledge to help you succeed as a fellow member of NOWA.

- John Kruse

**CRAFT IMPROVEMENT**

**SECOND CHANCE TURKEY**

by Gary Lewis

*Have you ever written a great story and the editor rejected it?*

Last year after a particularly good turkey hunt, I crafted a query and sent it to one of my favorite publications. I've been writing for this national magazine for 24 years, and I was working with a new editor, but we were getting along fine. He received the query and indicated he was probably going to take it and hinted he might change a thing or two on the assignment sheet.

In the past, the assignment sheets were a page in length and just rehashed the query and called for some special photography and a specific sidebar or two. This time the assignment sheet was a page and a half long and instead of printing it in its entirety by clicking the print to fit button, I clicked on a different option and got most of the assignment sheet. I read it through, but I missed what I thought was the standard stuff about pictures and captions at the end of the assignment.

Instead of the expert interview I had planned, the editor wanted me to interview his best buddy hunting guide on the other side of the continent. He had just been on a hunt with him and wanted to do that guy a favor by having me write about him. I didn't get that, and proceeded to write the story the way I had queried it with the few minor changes I had picked up from the beginning of the assignment sheet.

Man, I wrote a great story. And I knew it. And I wrote the captions, crafted the sidebar and submitted a great package a day or two before the deadline. Having checked that article off of my list, I proceeded to work on the next assignment.

A couple of days later here comes an email about how I had written the story wrong. And furthermore, instead of giving me the opportunity to correct it, I would not be paid for the article and someone else would write it.

That's how it works. And I was the one who had missed the key element of the assignment.

## CRAFT IMPROVEMENT (CONTINUED)



DO NOT PASS GO, DO NOT COLLECT \$500

I did not get up from my chair. I did not get a cup of coffee. I did not go downstairs and make a sandwich.

I decided I was going to find another place for that turkey of an article. It was a plump turkey. It was just the wrong turkey for that particular editor at that moment. But I had to get that turkey cooked!

I thought back to an editor who I had never written for and looked up his contact info, gave him a call and sent him a query via email. An hour or two later, I got a response. It was the kind of story he needed at that moment and, he wondered, could I get it done fast? Yes, I could. We agreed on a fee and in the course of the conversation, I pitched him several more article concepts, all of which he accepted. From that one phone call and a few follow-up emails, I ended up with four good paying

assignments. Then I fired off the article and the images and went downstairs and made myself a sandwich.

After an apology to the first editor, I was back in his good graces. I had another assignment from him the next month. So, if you ever end up with a good article some editor says is a turkey, but you know someone else can use it, don't let it sit in the fridge. Cook that bird!

*Gary Lewis is twice a past president of NOWA. Contact Lewis at [garylewisoutdoors.com](http://garylewisoutdoors.com) or email to [garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com). Photo courtesy Gary Lewis Outdoors.*

## **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

### **WANT TO BE A WRITER FOR KASTKING?**



KastKing is a relative newcomer to the rod, reel and fishing tackle world. They sell their products direct to consumers online and have been growing rapidly as a company. They are now looking for official writers and if you interested here's what you need to know:

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITERS:**

1. People from all over the US who love the outdoors, love the fishing, love the adventures in life.
2. Have some experience in fishing.
3. Have published articles or have written paid articles.
4. Just wanted to share your fishing story.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTICLES:**

1. More than 1000 words
2. Original content

#### **WHAT YOU RECEIVE:**

1. Get paid for articles (\$30-100 per selected article)
2. 30%-50% website discounts for you, 10% discounts for your family and friends

If you are interested send queries by email to [tackle@kastking.com](mailto:tackle@kastking.com)

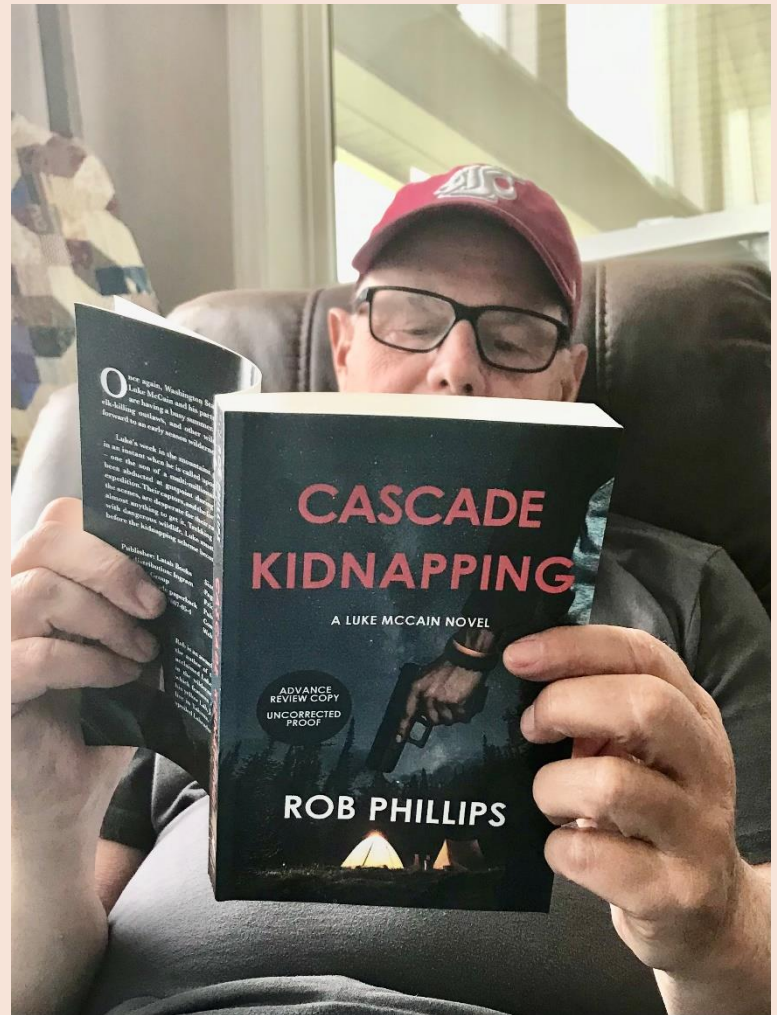
**MEMBER UPDATES**

**A NEW LUKE MCCAIN NOVEL IS AVAILABLE**

Longtime NOWA member Rob Phillips is proving to be a prolific book writer! He now has released the fourth book in his Luke McCain mystery series of novels. ***Cascade Kidnapping*** features Washington State game warden Luke McCain and his trusty sidekick Jack, a yellow Labrador retriever, and follows the pair as they run down salmon poachers, serial elk killers, and kidnappers in the wilds of Washington State.

Phillips' first three Luke McCain novels, *The Cascade Killer*, *Cascade Vengeance* and *Cascade Predator* have sold well at books stores and on Amazon and have been getting excellent reviews.

*Cascade Kidnapping* will be released on July 5<sup>th</sup> and will be available in paperback at bookstores and on-line through Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other book distributors. It is also available as an e-book and will be available on audible in the near future.



**TOM POSEY PASSES**



Tom Posey passed away after his plane, a single engine Beechcraft Bonanza, crashed on the runway at Pearson Field in Vancouver, Washington on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Posey was the only occupant of the plane at the time of the crash. Although Tom Posey was not a member of NOWA, he was well known by many of our members as the CEO, owner and president of Lamiglas, a long-established, family-owned rod company based in Woodland, Washington since 1949.

Our thoughts and prayers for comfort go out to his family, friends and employees during this difficult time. Photo courtesy of Lamiglas.

MEMBER UPDATES

A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY FOR G.I. WILSON



On April 25th, Jo Wilson and daughters Suzi and Sandy hosted an open house for G.I.'s 90th birthday. Friends and neighbors were treated to smoked salmon (caught and smoked by G.I.), beer, wine and other goodies. Jo also baked G.I.'s favorite carrot cake, using the same recipe that was used for their wedding reception 40 years ago.

Jo said, “Mother Nature smiled upon us. After days of rain and gloom, the skies cleared and it reached a high of 76 degrees. Our guests were able to enjoy the shade provided by the hazelnut trees in the back yard”.

When asked what he wished for his 90th birthday? G.I. replied, "Make it to 91."

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### MEMBER UPDATES



**Dennis Dauble** fished opening day for northeast trout streams in Oregon this spring when all rivers (Walla Walla, Touchet, Tucannon, Umatilla) were blown out from snow melt and rain. Despite that he had good luck fishing a small creek near his family cabin with his fly rod. Although the average trout size was sub legal, he caught a few “keepers” released for another day. Dennis also gleaned a few spring mushrooms in the general area, but won’t say where (Darn it!).

**SUPPORTING MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**THE PROMISE KEEPER FROM  
MACK'S LURE!**

Gary Lewis sent in this photo of young Johnny West, who caught this nice rainbow trout casting a Mack's Lure Promise Keeper spinner. I have to admit, this lure is one of my favorites and it is a trout catching machine. What I specifically like is the way it's shaped which allows you to cast it further than similar size spinners. I also really like the mylar smile blade because you can fish this spinner slow; much slower than a spinner with a metal blade where the blade will stop turning during a very slow retrieve.

You can find Promise Keeper spinners at quality tackle shops and sporting goods stores as well as online at [www.mackslure.com](http://www.mackslure.com).

- John Kruse



**FINAL SHOT**



Josh Engel, Founder and Guide of Red Hill Birding in Evanston, Illinois, took NOWA member Lynda O'Connor to Gillson Park for a spectacular morning of bird watching this spring. The first few days of May in the Chicago area saw an incredible hatch of midges which are a boon to migrating birds, providing a rich food resource to fuel their migrations. A wide variety of birds take advantage of this temporary food source, including warblers, blackbirds, thrushes, and swallows. This photo by Josh shows swallows covering every branch of a small tree while taking a rest, a small proportion of the many hundreds that were flying around catching midges to eat.

