

# NOWA FIELD NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2022



***FORCING YOURSELF TO HAVE FUN – CRAFT IMPROVEMENT FOR  
FREELANCE WRITERS – CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE – WINGS  
OVER WILLAPA BIRDING FESTIVAL – NO FISH CAMP THIS YEAR – FISHY  
PHOTOS FROM VETERAN NOWA PHOTOGRAPHERS – A JOB OPPORTUNITY***

## **NOWA FIELD NOTES – SEPTEMBER 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 – Doug Wilson – Fall salmon on a Mack's Lure Smile Blade**

### ***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/)



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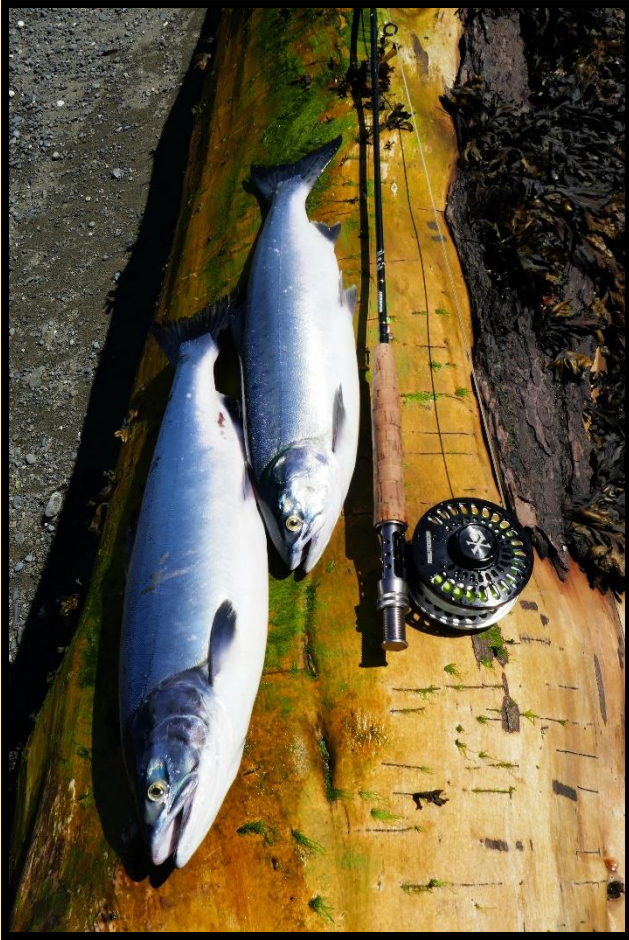
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*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – MY WRESTLING MATCH*



I just returned yesterday from a four-day jaunt, five hours away, to the mouth of a river north of me to fly-fish for pink salmon during their annual run. I didn't feel like going. I was sort of dreading it actually. I usually do not like going alone, but my fishing partner decided to take a cross country jaunt to Manitoba with his wife so I was stuck alone. Then my lazy mind started whining about all the crap I had to pack up and all the rigamarole I had to go through to get my Boler trailer ready, gear, food, dog stuff, etcetera, etcetera. I started questioning my enjoyment of it all. This went on for days, but I finally just made up my mind I was going regardless of the supposed issues, got my act together and went through my routine of getting ready. In the end it really did not take all that long and was relatively boring as I have done it so very many times in the past.

I drove the five hours up Vancouver Island and arrived at the little Forest Service campsite there without issue. It only has seven spaces; very simple: one outhouse for the entire site and a dilapidated old picnic table and

firepit at each site: perfect! And there was even a site open for me when I got there; pretty awesome for a long weekend . . . God is good.

I fished off and on for three days, caught and landed or released dozens of salmon, took some pics and spent a lot of time sitting by the river with my dog, reading and enjoying the peace that comes with these places and times . . . you know what I mean. And I actually was saddened by the fact that I had almost convinced myself not to go. It was a good reminder of why I do what I do. I am a fisherman and hunter first, a writer second. I don't claim to be an authority in anything, but I love to share my knowledge and experiences with others and that is why I write. Perhaps we all need a bit of time to reflect like this; I think it's good for what ails us. You should take some time to do it too.

I trust you are well and surviving the summer heat. Enjoy it while it lasts; it won't you know.

Bill Luscombe

*FROM THE EDITOR – A CLOSE ENCOUNTER*



I do love to hike and earlier this week I took off from a U.S. Forest Service trailhead to walk an old logging road that followed a creek and then went up a ridgeline along the eastern slopes of the Central Cascades.

There were no other vehicles parked at the trailhead and I was enjoying a peaceful late morning hike that took me 2 ½ miles to a nice view point where I could look towards Tronsen and Mission Ridges. After soaking in the views and drinking some water I started heading back downhill along the trail. I'll admit, my head was in the clouds when I first heard it; the loud crash of an animal entering the woods 30 yards ahead of me at a bend in the road. This

was no squirrel or chipmunk like I had been seeing earlier scurrying into the brush, this was an animal of significant size.

The animal did not run away from me as deer and elk do when they are surprised and want to create a lot of distance from you in a hurry. No, this animal actually went uphill angling towards me and stopped moving in the brush about 20 to 25 yards away from me to my left. I figured I was dealing with a bear here. I unholstered the bear spray I had with me, took the safety off, and began repeating in a loud, calm voice, "Hey Bear!" I scanned the brush as I did this and slowly walked down the trail as I did. The animal never moved from its perch above me or made a sound.

I turned a corner in the logging road where the animal first entered the brush and walked another 50 yards down the wide trail to a sandy spot in the road. That's where I saw my foot prints going up the trail and a new set of prints that were not there 45 minutes ago. They weren't bear prints; they were cougar tracks.

I have only had the opportunity to see one cougar before in the wild and based on the evidence of this encounter I'm virtually certain I just missed my second chance to see one, though it is clear this animal had definitely seen me which started off the surprise encounter. As you might imagine my head was on a swivel for the rest of the hike back to the trailhead.

Cougars have been in the news in recent years. In 2018 two mountain biking cyclists were attacked near North Bend by a mountain lion. One of the cyclists attempted to run away and was chased down and killed. Later that year, a female hiker in Oregon's Mt. Hood National Forest was also killed by a cougar and this year, a nine-year old girl playing on the outskirts of a church camp in Fruitland, Washington was attacked by a cougar and sustained serious injuries.

## *A CLOSE ENCOUNTER (CONTINUED)*

It is important to note cougar encounters, let alone attacks, are very rare. There have less than two dozen documented attacks in Washington State since 1924 that have resulted in injury or death. Cougars are largely secretive animals that remain unseen by most of us in the wild. However, there are things you can do to stay safe in the unlikely event of an encounter.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends:

- Stop, pick up small children immediately, and don't run. Running and rapid movements may trigger an attack. Remember, at close range, a cougar's instinct is to chase.
- Face the cougar. Talk to it firmly while slowly backing away. Always leave the animal an escape route.
- Try to appear larger than the cougar. Get above it (e.g., step up onto a rock or stump). If wearing a jacket, hold it open to further increase your apparent size. If you are in a group, stand shoulder-to-shoulder to appear intimidating.
- Do not take your eyes off the cougar or turn your back. Do not crouch down or try to hide.
- Never approach the cougar, especially if it is near a kill or with kittens, and never offer it food.
- If the cougar does not flee, be more assertive. If it shows signs of aggression (crouches with ears back, teeth bared, hissing, tail twitching, and hind feet pumping in preparation to jump), shout, wave your arms and throw anything you have available (water bottle, book, backpack). The idea is to convince the cougar that you are not prey, but a potential danger.
- If the cougar attacks, fight back. Be aggressive and try to stay on your feet. Cougars have been driven away by people who have fought back using anything within reach, including sticks, rocks, shovels, backpacks, and clothing—even bare hands. If you are aggressive enough, a cougar will flee, realizing it has made a mistake.
- Pepper spray in the cougar's face is also effective in the extreme unlikelihood of a close encounter.

The bottom-line is don't let the chance of an encounter with a bear or cougar keep you away from the outdoors. Just be prepared and know what to do if you see one of these animals. More than likely, both you and the animal will part ways unharmed.

John Kruse

## CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

# REACH NEW AUDIENCES

by John Kruse



Do you write a column for a local newspaper, or maybe a few local papers? Do you freelance for a regional magazine or publication? If so, you are bound to write articles that would be a good fit for publications outside of your normal market area and if you do, pitch that story to some different editors.

This isn't the same as recycling an evergreen article. This is about sending a new article to a non-competing, out of area, publication. A case in point. I recently wrote a story about a woman who caught a pending world record tiger trout off her cabin dock at a lake in Northeast Washington. The person who netted it? That was her son, who a year earlier caught the standing world record tiger trout out of the same lake at the same dock!

This was a great, once in a lifetime story to share. I sent it to my normal newspapers in Central and Eastern Washington and to a monthly magazine I write for that covers the fishing scene in the northwest.

I also sent it to *Western Outdoor News*, a print and digital publication covering the fishing scene in the Western U.S., primarily in California. The appeal of this story though was such that the editor saw it would be a good fit and said he would publish it. With that article being published I not only generated some extra income, but also started a relationship that may well lead to future articles in a new market.

One caveat here. Do not market this to competing publications in the same market unless the editor specifically says it's okay. Having said that, the next time you write a great story, consider sharing it with a new audience and make some extra money along the way.

- Pending world record trout photo courtesy of angler Cathy Clegg

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# JOB OPPORTUNITY – ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – MEDIA INDEX PUBLISHING



Media Index Publishing is looking for a motivated individual to sell advertising in their publications which includes:

*Northwest Sportsman* magazine

*California Sportsman* magazine

*Alaska Sporting Journal*

*American Shooting Journal*

Relocation (and working out of the office is preferred) but part-time remote work is possible for the right candidate. If you have an outdoors industry background (and as a NOWA member you certainly do) and are interested contact John Rusnak.

John Rusnak

Media Inc Publishing Group

941 Powell Ave SW

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Renton, WA 98057

206-382-9220 ext. 104

[jrusnak@media-inc.com](mailto:jrusnak@media-inc.com)



**PHOTO GALLERY – FALL STURGEON – GEORGE KRUMM**



Jack Butts of Sampo/Roscoe/Donmar hanging on for dear life as a big sturgeon gives him a workout.

Blake and Marty Krumm pose with a fall sturgeon from Oregon's Willamette River.

George Krumm is the Editor of *Fish Alaska* magazine but he enjoys catching sturgeon on both the Willamette and Columbia Rivers too!



## **NOWA NEWS - THE END OF FISH CAMP?**



Ed Iman, a long-time walleye fishing guide and promoter who lives in the Columbia River Gorge, will not be putting on his annual Fish Camp at the Peach Beach RV Park this year. The event, started in 2003 as the Wild West Writers Rendezvous, was changed to the simple name of Fish Camp the following year. The format was a fun one. Outdoors media professionals, many of them NOWA members, were one part of the camp. Fishing guides and tournament anglers made up another group and the companies in the fishing and outdoors industry that sponsored the camp every year made up the third component. Every day, you would hop in a boat and go fishing for salmon, steelhead, bass, walleye or sturgeon. Sponsors would give presentations in the evening and the camping and meals were free of charge.

The fishing varied from year to year but overall, the salmon fishing was always worth coming for and sometimes it was downright fantastic! In addition to this, the networking that took place here was invaluable. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic shaved participation in Fish Camp in half last September and after crunching the numbers, Ed realized it wasn't financially viable to put on Fish Camp this year. Is this the end for this two-decade event? It may be, but it sure was a good run while it lasted and a lot NOWA members will have lifetime memories of September fishing in the Columbia River Gorge with friends they got to see every September at this week-long camp out.

**MEMBER UPDATES – GUY MINER**

I try to make a September visit to Grand Teton and/or Yellowstone National Parks every year, fly fishing & wildlife photography. The fishing has been so-so, but the hiking and photography opportunities there are amazing. I've grown particularly fond of Grand Teton National Park.

The photo of a cow and calf moose on alert was taken last September while I was hiking in Grand Teton National Park. I'd been



photographing the two moose, when they went on high alert because a large black bear approached. Fortunately, he was only after the ripe berries nearby, but mama moose watched him carefully, then she and her young one left the area.

Regarding member updates and news:

I'm celebrating a year of writing, photography and some video work for *Ultimate Reloader*. It's a blog, with a YouTube channel and 250,000+ subscribers. I've had 32 articles published by UR in the year I've been there! Yes, I get paid for them. I also get all the reloading supplies and tools I need for free. Most of my work has been with hunting cartridges and rifles, some in the self-defense area.

Here's a recent article along with the YouTube video:

<https://ultimatereloader.com/2022/07/08/bear-hunting-a-z/>

**SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS – PACIFIC COUNTY  
TOURISM BUREAU**

**WINGS OVER WILLAPA FESTIVAL**

***Wings Over Willapa* slated for September 22 through 25, 2022 on Washington’s Long Beach Peninsula and the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge**

*The festival showcases one of the most significant bird destinations in North America*

**LONG BEACH PENINSULA, Wash.** – August 16, 2022 – Wings Over Willapa, a multi-day bird festival, taking place in one of the richest bird destinations in North America, is slated for Sept. 22 through 25, 2022. Events will take place at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and sites on Washington’s Long Beach Peninsula.

“The festival, hosted by the Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, is both a great introduction to birding and an ideal way for advanced birders to experience fall migration in a region filled with vast birding opportunities,” said Nancy Marvin, event coordinator.

Events include expert-led bird identification walks in the Refuge and classes ranging from beginning birding to bird-friendly landscaping. Other highlights include a guided tour to Long Island and its ancient cedar grove, a hands-on introduction to wildlife tracking, a guided 4x4 excursion to Leadbetter Point, and art experiences including pottery, ceramics, and needle felting.

A “Taking Flight” social and artist event will take place on Thursday evening, Sept. 22, and a Nature Play Day will offer fun-filled activities for children and families on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Expert birder Noah Strycker will be Friday evening’s keynote speaker at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. Strycker is an author and an entertaining and knowledgeable lecturer. In 2015, he broke a record for the World Big Year of birding, seeing 6,042 species in a single year! Light snacks and a drink, as well as a cash bar, will be offered.

## WINGS OVER WILLAPA FESTIVAL (Continued)

### Registration and Visitor Information

Registration for the festival opens in early August and sells out quickly. A \$5 general festival registration is required. Nominal fees are charged for the classes. Registration for the keynote event is \$35. All Nature Play Day activities are free. For registration information and the full schedule of events, please visit [wingsoverwillapa.org](http://wingsoverwillapa.org).

For lodging reservations, dining options, and other destination information, please visit [www.visitlongbeachpeninsula.com](http://www.visitlongbeachpeninsula.com).



**FINAL SHOT**



When it comes to capturing memorable fishing photos, longtime NOWA member and photographer Doug Wilson knows how to get it done. That includes this angler celebrating a catch at the end of his fishing day.

