

Living On a Lake in the Country: Lake or River Fishing? So Many Choices!

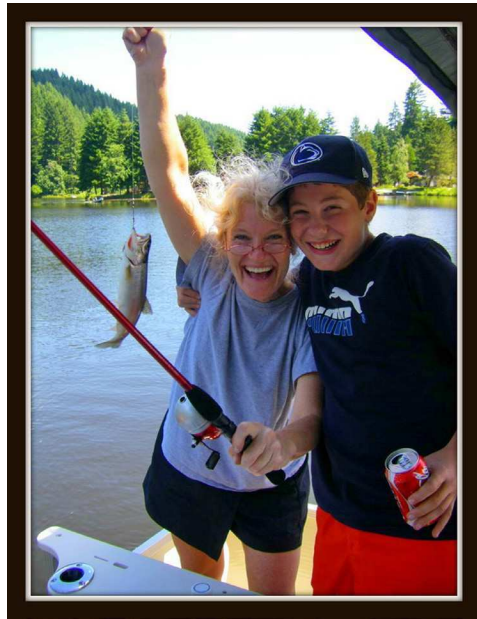
By Gayle Rich-Boxman

I get asked this question periodically and decided to get some real answers for all you folks who have fishing on your wish list and are interested in living on or near Fishhawk Lake as your 1st, 2nd or investment home.

I interviewed one of my fishing gurus, Ken Bateman (who also happens to own Vernonia Realty and has lived in this area all of his life) and tried to keep it within an hour's drive at the most from Fishhawk Lake. Here's the lowdown:

Trout Season:

May (usually Memorial Day weekend) to October 31st for Fishhawk Lake and the coastal streams in the Northwest zone. You can catch and keep up to two cutthroat trout per day, 8" or over. Trout can be readily found in Fishhawk Lake. All along the Nehalem River is another great area; the headwaters are located around the Timber, OR area and it flows in a big



loop (about 90 miles long) and enters the ocean at Wheeler, OR. From Fishhawk Lake to Wheeler is only 53 miles and from Vernonia to Fishhawk Lake there are also lots of tributaries that have fish as well. This Nehalem system, which includes all of the creeks that run into it, have native fish (cutthroat trout)

only; they're not stocked. As to "how to" fish, you can bank fish on the whole Nehalem, or you can troll in a variety of small boats (drift boat, small pontoon boats, kayaks, etc.) with lures only.

Steelhead/Salmon fishing:

Catch and release only at Fishhawk Lake, but consult rules and regulations for other areas. Steelhead come up the upper portion of the Nehalem River in late December through March. This river is not stocked with steelhead, they're mostly native and you can't keep the natives. If you catch a hatchery fish, the adipose fin would be clipped which is the small fin at the lower part of their back. It would be a rare occurrence to catch one of these hatchery fish in the Upper Nehalem.

In Vernonia Lake, which is 24 miles from Fishhawk Lake on Hwy. 47 and not far from Portland, you can fish for trout, bass and crappie and bluegill. Non motorized boats or bank fishing allowed. It also gets stocked regularly with trout. (Check on seasonality)

We are also not far from the Columbia River where you can do boat fishing on big water for salmon, steelhead and you can bank fish, too.

Catch and Retain:

Within an hour of Fishhawk Lake there are several steelhead streams that have a run of hatchery fish. The Klaskanine River is on the way to Astoria, past Fishhawk Lake on Highway 202. You can catch Coho, Chinook and steelhead. Other steelhead streams that run into the Columbia River are Big Creek Hatchery on Hwy. 30 between Clatskanie and Astoria. The

Clatskanie River is another possibility. This is roughly a half hour from the lake.

Miscellaneous fishing:

The whole Columbia River is also available for sturgeon, wall-eye and bass fishing, shad and a variety of warm water species. You can crab/clam in some of the small coastal towns:



Seaside, Gearhart, Nehalem Bay. You can also crab in the lower Columbia at Hammond Marina. There are many little bays near the ocean, too, the closest to Fishhawk Lake would be Astoria, about an hour's drive at the most.

For more regulations, please visit the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/>

More info about Pacific Northwest fish: <http://www.psmfc.org/habitat/fishfacts.html>

If you want to talk fishing or real estate, pop in and say hi to Ken Bateman at Vernonia Realty, 953 Bridge St.

Vernonia Rural Fire Department
1st Annual Golf Benefit ** Four Player Team

Saturday, August 13th, 2011
Vernonia Golf Club, Vernonia, OR

Registration: 8 am •• **Tee-off:** 9 am •• **Cost:** \$50

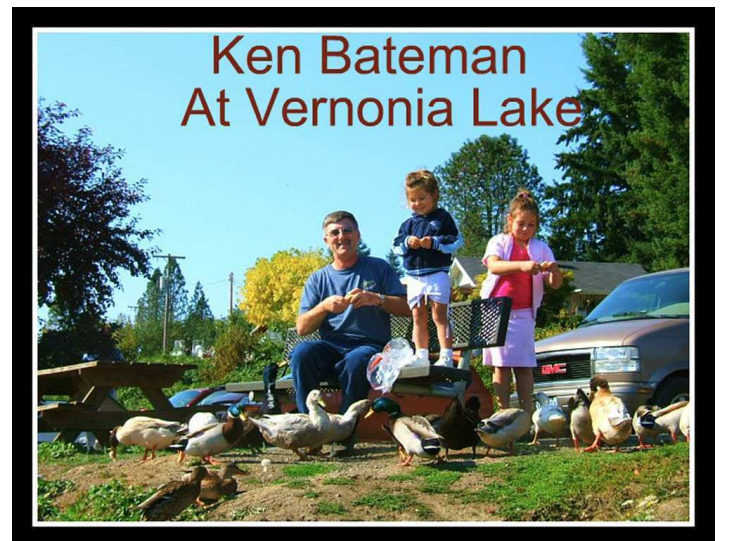
This includes 9-holes of golf, BBQ lunch following tournament, and lots of prizes to be won!

* Putting Challenge * Longest Drive * Closest to the Pin * 50/50 Raffle * \$10,000 Hole In One Prize *

Download Registration form at: www.vernoniafire.us

All participants must be at least 12 years of age.
verniagolfbenefit@gmail.com or contact Randy Carlton #503-791-8309

Thank you!



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