Welcoming Dave Graybill To The agicia

It is officially fall. There is a dusting of snow on Icicle Ridge near my home and all the higher peaks are bright white. My yard is carpeted with fallen maple leaves and there has been frost on my truck windows in the morning. There are other signs that fall, and all that it brings for local anglers has finally arrived in earnest.

There's great trout fishing at Fish Lake that I enjoyed recently, and there are some other trout fisheries that really blossom when the temperatures drop. Lake Lenore is one that fly fishers look forward to every year, and it looks like this year the fall season is going to be a good one on Lenore. At least I got a report of good fishing, which is a change from the past few seasons on Lenore. Anglers using Wooly Bugger patterns on sink tip or full sink lines are taking Lahontan cutthroat here that range in size from 19 to 24 inches, with some even larger being taken.

It is time to check the regs. Unlike Lenore, which is open until the end of November, many of our region's lakes close at the end of October. There are quite a number that are open year-now, though, and in the fall Roses and Antillon, above Manson at Chelan are a couple of my favorites. I like most of the anglers I know are turning their attention to steelhead fishing on our local rivers.

The steelhead season opened early this year. The earliest that I can recall, and although I did get out once in September and took a dandy hatchery fish below Wells Dam, it just didn't feel right. I am not used to fishing for steelhead when the weather is so warm. The fish seemed to agree

with me. Although there have some good days, the steelhead fishing in September was a disappointment for most angles. The fish were there alright. They iust weren't in the mood.

There has been a definite turn for the better in the past couple of weeks, though. I am now getting the kinds of reports and that I am used to for this time of year. Anglers are logging some very good days on the water now, and there are even better days ahead. This is really when I get excited about steelhead fishing. In my mind it is really just getting started and the peak is still a month or two away.

With the advent of every season, I make a vow to try some new things. If it isn't a completely different lake or stream I may be trying it at a different time. I have an opportunity this year to fish some of the rivers for steelhead that I don't usually try, and fishing from the shore, since my new JetCraft hasn't arrived yet, I can't follow my usual pattern of fishing the main stem Columbia. I am looking forward to breaking my old habits. I'll have some different adventures to report to you.

The Similkameen opened earlier this week, but I know that the local anglers will be out in force. They will be out before they go to work and by the time I got there would have taken all the eager fish. Good for them. It's their home town stream. I will fish the Okanogan instead. We have been invited to stay at the new Guest House situated between Riverside and Omak. I have fished above here and floated from Omak to the take out in Okanogan before, but have never been on this part of the river. I have looked at the river here from my truck window

while driving north or south on my way to fish other places, and now I will have the opportunity to explore this stretch. I have had my bobber set ups rigged and ready since September, and I'm taking along my fly rod, too. You never know.

I want to remind everyone about the exhibit that opens this Friday at the Central Washington Museum and Cultural Center in Wenatchee. The show is dedicated to the life and times of my good friend Bill McGuire, of Rock Island. People who visit the exhibit will see hundreds of trophies and awards that he won

r shooting and casting. McGuire was a champion caster in both spinning and fly competitions in California. He is the only competitor to win all five categories of casting at one of the big events. No one has ever duplicated that feat, and the world distance record for spin casting he set at the event still stands.

Although McGuire fished all over the world with many celebrities, big business people and other notables, he was really best known for his custom shotgun stock building. There are over 200 articles dedicated to his amazing craftsmanship

in shooting magazines. He was sought out internationally to have custom stocks made for collectors and even an Olympic champion. He was an incredible shooter, too. He won the Washington State championship in three categories three years in

Most people here know him for his rod building. He was a master crafter of fishing rods, and a great innovator. His "Wonder Rod", which can be used for spin casting, bait casting and fly fishing, pre-dated the introduction of "Switch Rods" to the fly fishing market. He did this when he was 80

> You can meet McGuire at the Museum this Friday, November 5th from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served and there is no admission charge. See you there!

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For More Information

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