

# Welcoming **Dave Graybill** To The **Nickel Ads** **The Fishin' Magician**

A great prelude to the opening of the fishing season is the City of Rock Island Kids Fishing Day, and once again it was a great success. Hundreds of kids and their families came down to the Pit Pond and enjoyed the great spring weather, good fishing for trout, and consumed over 500 hot dogs!

The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association is a big part of the event every year. They provide money to publicize the event, bring "loaner" rods and reels, bait and tackle and make sure that kids have a good chance of catching a fish. Ron Bruno had a super idea this year that really worked well. They distributed empty bags to the kids and when they brought them back full of garbage they got a free t-shirt! The Pit Pond never looked so good at the end of the event.

Among the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association's crew last Saturday was Sherry Poppe. She is a familiar face to anyone that has visited their booths at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival or their auction. Sherry Poppe has been an active member and contributor of time and energy for many years. At this year's annual auction, she was awarded the honor of being named the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association Sportsman of the Year--the first woman in the organization's history. Sherry Poppe is the perfect example of the kind of person deserving of this award, and great representative of this hard working group, dedicated to the enhancement of fish and wildlife and youth education in our local area.

The coming Saturday is when trout fishing takes center stage for outdoor fun in Washington State. The annual opening of the

lowland lake fishing season attracts hundreds of thousands of anglers to the lakes all over the state, and many of the most popular trout lakes are right here in our region. For decades families have visited their favorite lake for opening weekend fun.

Anglers can expect good to great fishing at most of the traditional favorites, and there are some worth special mention. In Grant County, larger than usual plants of catchable rainbow have been made at Deep Lake (16,000), and at Coral Lake (14,000). Park and Blue lakes should produce some very large rainbow this year, and Dry Falls Lake, a selective fishery lake mostly visited by fly anglers, should also provide excellent fishing for big rainbow and brown trout.

In Okanogan County, Conconully Reservoir and Lake have both received 6,400 catchables, but also will get 400 rainbow that are over 14 inches to make things interesting. Sidley Lake is worth checking out this year, with a plant of over 10,000 catchables planned for this season. Spectacle was one of my grandparents favorite lakes, and it will be a good one this year with 14,500 catchables to be added to the existing population of rainbow in the lake. Another annual favorite that should be good again this year is

Alta Lake. Over 5,000 catchable will be added for opening weekend fun.

My wife Eileen and I have already visited Fish Lake, near Lake Wenatchee, and the planting truck dropped off another load while we were there. We found fishing good at the top end of the lake. When the wind came up caught plenty of nice rainbow on Woolly Bugger flies right in the bay near the docks at the Cove Resort. Another good bet for

Chelan County anglers is Roses Lake, near Manson at Lake Chelan. It has been producing limits of rainbow since the ice came off the lake. If you like brown trout, Antillon which is up the hill from Wapato Lake is loaded with them. Small boats can be launched at the lower lake, and thanks to the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, the upper lake now, too. Gas motors are not allowed on the Antillon lakes.

Further north, Curlew Lake should be excellent by opening weekend. This lake produced particularly rich rainbow due to heavy concentrations of Mysis shrimp. Be sure to turn in any tagged trout, without cleaning them, to Tiffany's Resort. The tag will be worth a cash reward!

On Sunday, May 1st, you will find me at the Grocery Outlet on North Wenatchee Avenue, with the Central Washington Bass Club. They will be holding their annual yard sale, and I am going to participate this year. Club members gather up their extra tackle and sell it at garage sale prices, and I am going to do the same with rods, reels and other gear that is cluttering up my valuable storage space. Just look for my Town Ford 150 truck and Bob Feil Boats and Motors Jetcraft boat.

Something coming up in May that you need to plan for is 2nd Annual CCA Banquet and Auction. It will be held on Saturday, May 21st at Apple Annie's in Cashmere from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are available at Hooked on Toys and High Mountain Hunting Supply in Wenatchee, and at the Triangle Shell in Brewster. For more information call Bobby Loomis at Mack's Lures at 509-667-9373.

I just sent out my new e-letter on Spring Fishing. I always get a lot of thanks from those that subscribe to these free e-letters, and if you want to get it, too, just follow the links on the Home Page of FishingMagician.com.

I am having a hard time deciding just where to launch the Jetcraft next. There's plenty of opportunity to catch trout. Big bass are waiting for me out there, too. Whatever I choose to do it's going to be fun!

Reach Dave at: [www.FishingMagician.com](http://www.FishingMagician.com)  
or [Fishboy@nwi.net](mailto:Fishboy@nwi.net)



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