

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



As predicted, Lower Hampton Lake was producing very good catches of yearling rainbow. One couple that traveled to Hampton from the Tri-Cities found a great spot on the bank. They started fishing at 11:45 and had their limits of these 13- to 14-inch rainbow by 2:30. They were just using a garlic marshmallow tipped with a single red egg to get their trout. The next biggest crowd of anglers was at Canal Lake. The word was out already that the plant of over 10,000 fry last year was paying off in the form of good catches of yearling trout of 12 to 13 inches. Canal is one of the more popular stops in the Seep Lakes area. There is a large area for camping, pit toilets, a good ramp that will accommodate large boats and even a couple of handicapped fishing platforms.

I also saw significant numbers of anglers camped at Sage Lake. We didn't get to talk to any of the anglers here, but it indicates to me that the fry plant survival must be good on the lakes this spring. There wouldn't be people staking out fishing spots if they weren't catching fish.

We made the hike into the Pillar-Widgeon Chain of lakes for the first time last Thursday. I can see why the lakes are an attraction to those who are willing to pack a float tube down the trail. It

is an easy walk of about a quarter mile to Pillar. The lake could be covered very easily in a short time with a tube, and we could see that the next lake is just a short distance from the bottom edge of Widgeon. I didn't have time to fish the lake, as my daughter Whitney was video taping our day for one of my cable television shows, and we wanted to visit as many lakes as possible.

One of the last stops was at Hutchinson Lake. This is another one that I have always wanted to see, but had never had the time. There were three anglers there when we arrived, but they weren't fishing. They just wanted to check out the water conditions and see if the new dock was in—it was. These guys were real fans of Hutchinson. They fish it regularly during the season, and usually wait a week or two after the opener to let the water warm up. This year they will be able to fish the lake earlier than usual. They raved at how good the bluegill fishing was at Hutchinson. They said they just troll around to catch their fish. There are some nice perch and big bass taken at this lake, too.

I was surprised at the size of Hutchinson. No gas engines allowed on the lake, and I would recommend taking an electric motor along if possible. The anglers I encounter here also mentioned that there is usually some calm water even when the wind is really blowing. The lake is lined with low basalt walls, and anglers can tuck in against

them and are still able to fish. Shiner Lake can be reached through a narrow channel at the east end of Hutchinson. It is known for good spiny ray fishing, even some nice crappie, and offers even more shelter from the wind than Hutchinson.

I want to remind anglers that when they get their new licenses for the 2010 season to not throw their 2009 catch record cards away. It is important that they are sent into the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The information taken from these cards is used to plan future seasons. So remember, whether successful or not for salmon or steelhead, send your cards to WDFW Fish/CRC Office, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

If you want to get youngsters out for some early season fishing, plan on being at the annual Rock Island Kids Fishing Day on Saturday, April 17th. The Pitt Pond, juvenile fishing only (under age 15), will be loaded with rainbow, and the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association will be on hand to make sure that everyone gets rigged up properly to catch trout. Ray Pearson and his crew will be cooking up hot dogs and thanks to Pepsi, no one will go thirsty. The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. till noon.

Reach Dave at:  
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