

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



Fishing was also good at Perch Lake, with 2.9 fish per angler, and the average size of the rainbow was 12.5 to 14 inches, and triploids from 14 to 16 inches were included on many stringers. Deep Lake had a very good catch rate on the opener at 3.8.

DFW personnel as anglers to rate their opening day experience from one to five, with five being the highest, and the results indicated that this was one of the better opening days in the region in a while.

My wife Eileen and I spent the opening day on a river instead of one of the lakes in the region. We were part of a volunteer work crew from the Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited that did a clean up of the Icicle River. We began at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and worked our way down to the take out across from Blackbird Island. Most of us were on shore, but two drift boats and one pontoon boat floated the river. We pulled everything from old bed springs and tires from the river and picked up garbage bags full of other debris along the shore.

On Sunday morning, I, and a long list of others, got this note from Dennis McMahon, chapter president in my e-mail inbox: "The Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been recognized

as the Organization of the Year by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is an annual award give by the DFW to an organization that stands out above the rest. I know the main reason the chapter received this award is because of the dedicated members that devoted countless hours of their time to the numerous projects that we are involved with over the years. On behalf of the board we want to thank you for your time and devotion to a very worth while cause. Members of the board will be going to Olympia on Thursday to receive the award."

On Sunday I spent most of my day with another fishing organization. This one was the Central Washington Bass Club, at their annual Yard Sale. I have gotten to know the members of this group over the many years of service they have provided at the kids fishing events. They have spent many hours assembling the rods and reels prior to the events and also helped with registration and helped the kids catch fish. On Sunday, we gathered at the Grocery Outlet and spread out our excess fishing gear (if there is such a thing) and invited the public to buy it at bargain prices. Ten percent of all sales went to the club. It was a great day to share fishing stories, meet the public and fill the treasury.

My next stop is a Lake Chelan. I have heard that the kokanee are starting to show up in the lower basin, and I am going to find out if they are really there. I'll let you know what I learn!

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

was Warden Lake. Angler harvest and catch rates were phenomenal, according to the DFW. There was no wind to bother anglers here, as in other Grant County lakes, and the size of the trout was also outstanding. Yearling rainbow at Warden were 13 to 14 inches, and trout up to 17 inches were also recorded during the creel census.

In spite of windy conditions on Saturday morning, the opening day at Park and Blue lakes was a good one, with Blue Lake anglers experiencing a higher catch rate than those at Park. The average catch at Blue Lake was 3.8 trout, while those at Park averaged just 2. The size of the trout was excellent. Rainbow averaged 12.5 to 12 inches and there were many 18-inch rainbow landed. There were few brown trout were also caught, and they were 20 to 22 inches in length.

It was the biggest angling weekend of the year when the lowland lakes opened the last day of April and the first day of May. Forecasts for cold mornings and windy conditions didn't keep thousands of anglers from traveling to their favorite lakes in our region. The chilly and windy conditions did drive the early shift of anglers off many of the trout waters, but those who returned later in the morning were met with improved weather and also encountered good numbers of hungry rainbow.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife surveyed several lakes in the region and here are the results from the lakes that they checked on Saturday. In Chelan County anglers were hampered in their efforts on Saturday by cold and windy conditions and the catch rate was just 2.4 trout per angler, but there were many triploid rainbow in the creel checks that were 17 inches. The catch rate was a bit lower at Jameson Lake and although yearling rainbow were averaging 10 inches, the triploids caught were as large as 17 inches.

Of the lakes in Okanogan County surveyed, Alta Lake saw the most pressure and average catch of two fish per angler. Yearling rainbow were averaging 10 inches at Alta but many anglers were rewarded with 17-inch triploids. Wannacut produced the best catch rate at 3.8 trout per angler, with yearling rainbow dominating the catch at 9 to 11 inches. Fish Lake came in just behind Wannacut for catch rate at 3.5 trout per angler, and yearling rainbow were 10 to 12 inches. Pearygin Lake rainbow averaged 9 to 11 inches, but triploids to 17 inches were part of the catch rate, which was 1.8 trout per angler.

The standout lake on the opener in Grant County

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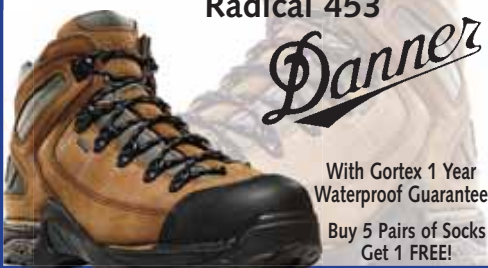
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