

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician



they weighed and measured all the fish. There were anglers that showed up with stringers of big fish early in the day, but the momentum built through the day and at the 2 p.m. deadline the tables were covered with trout.

There was one tagged trout, out of 15 that were planted in the lake, and the tag number needs to be checked to see if it is a "money" fish. If it is it could be worth either \$3,000.00 or \$1,000.00! The lucky angler that caught the fish was Kelli Schultz of Everett, who has been fishing the opening weekend at the Quincy Wildlife Area for 20 years. She was presented with a fat envelope full of gift certificates and a one hundred dollar bill, while she waits for the insurance company to check the tag number.

Officials with Quincy Valley Tourism announced that if Schultz's tagged fish isn't one of the cash winners, anyone that turns in a tagged trout and it turns out to be the one that was worth \$3,000.00 during the derby, the lucky angler will get \$500.00 when they turn in the tag. Anyone that catches a fish wearing a tag should take the tag to the Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce between now and June 30th, when this offer expires. The Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce is located at 119 F Street S E.

When the dust settled and all the weights and measured were tabulated here is how the awards broke down: 1st place for largest fish in the adult division was won by Jim Carroll, with a 6.22-pound rainbow and he won a Traeger barbeque grill. 2nd place for largest fish, with a 5.71-pounder was taken

by Oscar Trevino. Total stringer weight for five fish was also won by Trevino at 12.53 pounds, and Enrique Villareal took second with 7.11 pounds. In the youth division, the largest fish prize went to Cruz Villegas, with a 1.40-pound rainbow and second place was awarded to Austin Morris for a .95-pound trout. The total catch weight in the youth division was taken by Nick DeLine with a 5.08-pound stringer, and second place was claimed by Tanner Boday with 4.84 pounds.

There were lots of smiles from young and old alike as the fish weights and measures were tallied. The volunteers that handled the throng did an excellent job, and all that participated are looking forward to next year's derby. The members of Quincy Valley Tourism questioned many anglers about suggestions and they plan to make a few minor adjustments and start working on next year's Trout Derby right away.

The biggest crowd was certainly at Burke Lake last weekend, but anglers found other places to make good catches. Some left Burke to try their luck at Quincy Lake that had some open water at the very west and east ends. Trout were landed by those that fished the limited open water. I should note that although many of the trout landed at Burke and Quincy lakes were the fall plants of about 11 inches, there were good numbers of carryover trout to 15 to 18 inches on stringers. Also, there were over 100 triploid rainbow planted from 18 inches weighing 2 to 3 pounds, and some as large as 6 and 7 pounds for the derby. Less than a half-dozen of these big fish

were turned in during the derby last Saturday.

Some of the Burke Lake anglers were headed for Martha Lake, which is just east of the town of George. Anglers had very good success on the March 1st opening day there. Martha Lake was rehabilitated last year, but anglers showed me some photos on their cell phones of very hefty rainbow taken there. Trout fishing at Burke and Quincy will be excellent when the water temperatures warms, and are still very good prospects for the early season. I noticed that the ice has cleared off Stan Coffin, which is good news for bass anglers that like to catch and release fish for largemouth here.

I was also shown some photos of some of the rainbow being taken at Lake Roosevelt from the shore. Fishing near the Keller Ferry has been very good this winter, with rainbow of 18 to 20 inches common. I haven't heard as much about big kokanee being taken as I had earlier this winter, but I am sure there are still some anglers finding them. Dedicated walleye anglers are getting their fish, too. When water temperatures warm the fishing will improve for walleye on Roosevelt.

I hope to be able to get a few hours in on the Wenatchee Rive this week for steelhead. The month of March can be fantastic.. I also plan to get up to the net pens on Rufus Woods. I have heard of some big fish coming from Rufus, and boy, I want to land one of these monsters myself!

Reach Dave at: www.FishingMagician.com or Fishboy@nwi.net



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