

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads

Nickel Saver

Nickel NIK

Nickel Nik Buylane

I have only been up to Banks Lake a couple of times this year, and had great fishing, so I was eager to get back there. It is one of my favorites in Central Washington. Neil Stewart had outbid everyone at a Trout Unlimited auction, and he said he wanted to fish for smallmouth bass. Banks Lake is a perfect place to take people new to bass fishing, so he and his wife Betty met me at the Northrup boat launch to give it a try.

It was a perfect day to be out on Banks. There was just a slight breeze and the sky had a high overcast. The Stewarts were camped at Steamboat Rock State Park and had brought their boat. I fired up the Kingfisher and started on the back side of Steamboat, as this would be close to where they were camped. We did get some smallmouth here, but I wanted faster action, so headed down lake to one of my favorite shorelines, below the big haystack rock on the west shore.

We did find more fish here. They liked the four-inch Senkos I had put on their rods. Catching and releasing smallmouth of about half-pound was easy, and we did get one of about 3 pounds. We worked this shore for a couple of hours and then I suggested we head across the lake to the mid way launch for a short break. This worked out fine, but I should let people know that there will be mosquitoes here if you choose to use this launch. I want to also mention that even though the lake level is high it is shallow here.

As we moved back out onto the lake, I was trying to decide where to start again, when Neil mentioned that he would sure like to catch a walleye. I had left all my walleye boxes at home,



of course. Well, I dug around in the tackle boxes that I had brought and came up with two Rapala Shad Raps and a Frenzy lure of the same size. I ran the boat out to where I found 15 feet of water and put the lures out way behind the boat. I just started trolling down the lake hoping this technique would work.

The first fish hit right away. It came up to the top and threw the hook. I knew I was doing something right, and thinking about it later, figure it was a smallmouth. When the next fish hit the hooks stuck and we got it to the boat. It was a keeper walleye! Hey, this was working out after all. We fished down this shore to end of the point and then turned and went back up the lake. We continued to get hits and in about an hour and a half put seven keeper walleye and one big smallmouth in the boat. We also caught a couple of nice perch on the crank baits, too. I sent the Stewarts back to their camp with enough fillets for a couple of good walleye meals. It was a great day on Banks. When my daughter comes to visit she really likes fishing at Banks,

and I think we'll try fishing like I did with the Stewarts instead of just tossing plastics along the shore. She has never caught walleye with me and I know she would like some walleye to take home.

Drought conditions have prompted partial or complete closure to streams in Yakima Basin tributaries in selected areas. Streams that are now under "hoot owl" restricted hours, which means closed to fishing from 2 p.m. to midnight, include the Yakima River from the I-82 Bridge in Union Gap to the South Cle Elum Bridge. Swauk Creek and all tributaries downstream of Williams Creek, the Naches River from the Tieton River to Bumping River, and Rattlesnake Creek. Streams that have been closed to all fishing until further notice include Williams Creek and all tributaries, Swauk Creek and all tributaries up stream of Williams Creek, Ahtanum Creek and its forks, the Little Naches River, and the Teanaway River and the West, Middle and North Forks.

Fishing for summer-run salmon on the upper Columbia is the best that it has been in years. The forecast for the return of summer salmon was first updated from 73,000 to 85,000 and now I have seen estimates of over 115,000 coming to the upper Columbia. The count for summer-runs over Bonneville Dam has passed 160,000 and there are an additional 170,000 jacks. These numbers are the highest since 1960 and the third highest in recent history. Also, the ratio of adipose fin clipped, or hatchery fish, is higher this year so the odds of getting a keeper is better this year. The Brewster Pool is still a good place to look for these kings, and many of them can be

found below Wells Dam and at Chelan Falls as well. They will also be in good numbers above the Brewster Pool in the area known as Pelican and even further up the Columbia to the stretch below Chief Joseph Dam. Super Baits are still the preferred bait for these kings, and plugs will come into play a little later on.

Record returns of summer-run salmon to the upper Columbia River has peaked the interest of anglers throughout the state. Many anglers are going to be trying this for their first time. These fish are notoriously difficult to catch, but anglers have become much more adept at getting them. If you want to learn some of the proven techniques for hooking these fish, I suggest that you review the videos available on my Fishing TV Show through my web site at FishingMagician.com. Just click on the Fishing TV button on the Home Page and then look for the Archives button. You can look for videos on fishing for summer-run salmon by looking at the calendar and choosing shows that are scheduled for the summer season. We always take time to show people what the guides are using to catch fish, not just the fun of catching them. We really try to be more than entertaining by being informative with these shows. Every time I am out on the water other anglers thank me for these videos, so they must be helpful.

I will be looking for a place to fish that is out of the smoke this week, which may be difficult. Maybe I will go back up to Banks. It sure was fun last time I was there!

Reach Dave at:  
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