

The Fishin' Magician

Welcoming

Dave Graybill

To The
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Trout fishing is still good at Banks Lake, too. This is a great time to fish for rainbow at Banks. The fish cruise the shore and they are bigger than most people expect. It is not usual to catch rainbow of 2 to 3 pounds this time of year. Most anglers fish the very top end of the reservoir, near where the canal enters the lake, or at the bottom end. Fishing from the jetty around the Coulee City Marina is a popular spot.

In the Chelan area, always a good spring bet is Roses Lake. It's a year-round lake and offers the first chance at spring fishing for rainbow in this area. Anglers will find limited shore access here, but if you can find a place to stand on the south shore, you can expect to fill your stringer with trout of 11 to 12 inches that were planted last fall. Trolling on the lake is very effective. This time of the year the fish will be near the surface and all it will take is a couple of split shot to get deep enough to get to them. A Wedding Ring spinner baited with a piece of worm should do the job. I like dragging an F-4 Flatfish around on Roses.

If you're looking for bigger game, the lake trout fishing on Lake Chelan is good this time of year. Some nice size fish can be had and some days the action is something else. I hear the trench, from Wapato Point down to Rocky Point has been very productive.

I am hoping that the king fishing at Chelan will be good this year. Last year I didn't have any luck, but

the year before I did okay. I think when the kokanee fishing is good the king fishing is, too. Last year the kokanee fishing at Lake Chelan wasn't any good, and neither was my luck with the kings. Anton Jones, at Darrell and Dads Family Guide Service tells me he's seeing lots of kokanee very deep already, and he thinks we're in for a good kokanee year. I hope he's right.

In the Columbia Basin there are a ton of lakes open to fishing for trout, and Potholes Reservoir is a good place to look for big rainbow this time of year. I will keep checking on the perch fishing at Moses Lake, too. The bite should light up any time now.

It's not too early to be thinking about big largemouth. This is the time to find the real monsters. I know we've only had a handful of days of 60 degree weather, but you can be sure that the big largemouth are starting to stir. The shallower lakes will warm up first and that's the place to look for them, in close to the shore.

I am already planning a trip to the lower Columbia for spring salmon. I always spend the wettest couple of days a year at Drano Lake. It rains hard and blows hard when I'm down there, but the lure of bright spring kings keeps me going back. The forecast is for a normal run of spring salmon, and that's plenty. Buzz Ramsey is already sending me photos of the springers he's catching.

April is also when I help out with a couple of events for kids in the region. The first one will be the 3rd Annual Columbia Basin Kids Fishing Derby at Connelly Park in Moses Lake. It takes place on Saturday, April 16th. This is very well organized and conducted by the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, and sponsored by Pepsi. The kids get to participate in a bunch of activities and, of course, get to catch some trout from the launch bay. There are prizes awarded for biggest fish.

The next one I have been doing for over a dozen years. It is the Rock Island Kids Fishing Day at the Pit Pond, which is a juveniles-only fishing pond. Families are invited to come down and let the kids catch trout that have been planted just prior to the event. There will be hot dogs provided by Ray Pierson and his crew, as usual and soft drinks provided by Pepsi. The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association will be on hand again with loaner rods and reels and bait. They will make sure your kids get what they need to catch a fish.

The big lowland lake opener happens at the end of this month, which is the biggest fishing day of the year. There's plenty to do between now and then, though, and I plan to get out and practice, practice, practice!

Reach Dave at: www.FishingMagician.com
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