

# The Fishin' Magician

Welcoming  
**Dave Graybill**  
To The  
**Nickel Ads**  
*Classifieds*

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and got everything they asked Santa for. I sure had a wonderful time getting together with my family. We all ate to much, laughed a lot, and had our usual good time over the Holiday. It's back to work now, though, and given the time of year I decided to do some checking on winter perch fishing prospects in our region.

A traditional favorite for perch in the winter is fishing from the bank at Winchester Wasteway. The Wasteway never freezes and there are times when perch are plentiful near the bridge that passes over it on Road 5 NW. It's just nine miles from the highway between Quincy and George to this spot, and it can be crowded when the fish are in.

They aren't. I have been checking on the perch fishing on the Wasteway for years, and it just hasn't been good for the past three years, at least. It's a mystery why they aren't gathering here. I can't see that anything has changed but the perch just aren't there. They may show up later, and if they do I'll let you know.

Not far above the bridge there is a spillway. I have run into anglers fishing there that weren't after perch. They were fishing for big rainbow. I have seen rainbow weighing 4 to 6 pounds taken right below this spillway. I noticed a couple of anglers were there when we were checking out the Wasteway last Sunday, so I drove up to investigate. Turns out the pair of anglers were actually fishing for carp. They hadn't had any luck, but they did show me their catch of perch taken earlier at the Coulee City Marina. The perch weren't huge, but they had a couple of limits, so my wife Eileen and I packed up the camera gear and headed

up there.

There were two groups of anglers out on the ice when we arrived. As we loaded the sled I noticed that both groups were catching fish. We took a few minutes to shoot some video about the Coulee City Marina and then drug our gear out on the ice.

I picked a spot about midway between the two groups of anglers and drilled my hole. I found about six inches of ice and it turned out that I was over about eight feet of water. I rigged up a double hook rig, with a Macks Lure Glo Hook above a Big Eye jig, and baited them both with a piece of worm. I had barely settled into my chair when I got my first bite. The fish was just a 7-incher, but I was encouraged. It didn't appear that I would have to move and drill other holes to find perch.

I used the same hole the whole time we were there. I caught fish on both the Glo Hook and the jig. Missed a bunch of bites, but was putting a good mess of perch on the ice. Eileen was capturing all the action for a Fishing TV Show that will air in February..

I decided to try something that I learned while fishing on Georgetown Lake, near Anaconda,



Montana. Anglers there use bobbers. I was amazing how well they could see even the most subtle bites by watching a bobber. I used a rig that would be familiar with steelhead fishers in our region: a slip bobber. I put a couple of split shot at the end of my main line and then, using a simple over hand knot tied on a jig that one of the ice anglers nearby wanted me to try. It worked great.

Now, I am not saying that I caught more fish due to the bobber, the bite was very good, but it was sure fun watching it move across the hole, jiggle and then disappear down the hole when a perch grabbed it and took off. This method may pay big dividends when the bite is very light and you're missing a lot of fish.

We fished for a couple of hours and had a blast. Everyone we saw was catching fish, too, and if you want to have some ice fishing fun I would recommend a trip to the Marina at Coulee City. The biggest fish are 8 to 10 inches, according to the anglers who are fishing here regularly, and I want to remind everyone that the limit is 25.

The seminar scheduled at Town Ford for Wednesday, January 12th is creating a lot of excitement. I can't tell you how thrilled I am about getting Buzz Ramsey to town. It is an opportunity to learn about a wide range of ways to catch steelhead on Western rivers, from a real expert. The seminar is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the dealership, and you'll want to get there early. I have some special giveaways, like maps of Rufus Woods and special offer coupons I plan to hand out, while they last. You'll want a copy of the map of Rufus Woods Reservoir.

The other speaker that night will be Anton Jones, of Darrell and Dads Family Guide Service. He has been guiding anglers on Rufus Woods for years, and you'll not only get the latest news on the fishing up there, but some very good information on how to catch triploid rainbow trout.

If you're going to a New Years event, pick up some Fishing Magician's Signature Smoked Salmon Spread at Mike's Meat and Farmers Market. It's in the cooler shelves now and selling well. You'll enjoy it and your friends will thank you for bringing it!

Reach Dave at:  
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