

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

**Nickel Ads**  
Classifieds



yellow to red on the fish finder. I would be trolling a squiddier style lure behind a Double D dodger. I hope to be out there with the fleet very soon.

There is more than the usual excitement about the 4th Annual Tagged Trout Derby in Quincy this year. Both Burke and Quincy lakes will be planted with tagged trout worth up to \$2,000.00 each, and for the first time every tagged fish will be worth a cash prize. This means that a fish worth \$2,000.00 and another worth \$1,000.00 could be caught at Burke and Quincy and an angler that catches a tagged fish that isn't worth the big bucks can still be taken to the weigh-in station for a \$100.00 check! In addition to the fish that are worth prize money the Quincy Valley Tourism Association, the group that organizes the event, has also arranged to have about 150 trout ranging in size from 15 to 18 inches planted in the lakes, and another 35 that will weigh between 6 and 7 pounds!

These fish will contribute to some of the categories that will also win cash and prizes at the derby. There will competition for the Heaviest Fish and Cumulative Weight. There will be lots of raffle prizes as well. You don't even need to catch a fish to win a prize in the raffles. Registration will take place at the derby headquarters that will be set up in the parking area at Burke Lake. Participants can register up to 9 a.m. The ticket prices are still \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for kids. Plan to get there early to find a place to fish from shore or to launch your boat. It's going to be busy!

I made a swing through the lakes prior to last weekend and found only Quincy Lake to be mostly covered with ice. Burke Lake was 80 percent clear of ice, with only the very east end ice covered and a few large patches at the west end.

When I made my swing I was able to take a look at Stan Coffin, Quincy, Burke, Dusty and Martha lakes. Stan Coffin is the first lake you pass on your way into the Quincy Wildlife Area, off White Trail Road. Stan Coffin is a spiny ray lake, with good numbers of largemouth bass, which must be released. There are also some nice catfish in the lake. Burke and Quincy are trout lakes under state wide rules and a five fish limit. The lakes are planted with fry in the fall and the fish are usually 11 inches or better by the spring opener, with some carryovers of 15 inches. There is very good bank access on both of these lakes. Dusty Lake is a quality lake that is very popular with fly fishers. There is a one fish limit on Dusty. Trout to over 20 inches are taken regularly. Martha Lake, which is east of George, always surprises me. It is a trout lake, and although narrow and shallow produces some very large rainbow on the opener every year. It also usually produces the highest number of limit catches every year. I didn't get a chance to get to Upper Caliche last week, but I was told that it was completely ice free. This lake typically produces good catches of trout averaging 11 inches.

A couple of other lakes that opened on March 1st are Lake Lenore, near Soap Lake, and Lenice near Beverly. Lake Lenore is a Lahontan cutthroat lake,

with some large fish available. You must release all fish on Lenore, which is a selective fishery lake, until June 1st, and then you can keep one fish. Lake Lenice is a quality lake, very popular with fly fishers, under selective fishery rules, and a one fish limit.

This is always the first derby of the year, but there are other events and opening of seasons coming up this spring. I have updated my Anglers Calendar on the Home Page of my web site, FishingMagician.com, and you will find a pretty good list of things to look forward to.

There is an opportunity to speak to the Department of Wildlife Commission in Moses Lake. Topics that public can comment on are seasons for Deer, Elk, Moose and other game species. The meeting will be on March 6th and 7th at the Moses Lake Civic Center, located at 401 S. Balsam St. in Moses Lake. The meeting is set to begin at 8 a.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Our trout seasons are off and running now, and there are some other great opportunities for anglers in our region. There is still some great fishing for rainbow going on at Lake Roosevelt, and walleye fishing on the Columbia River and on Lake Roosevelt can be very good right now, too. I am very eager to try them all!

Reach Dave at:  
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