

Welcoming **Dave Graybill** To The **Nickel Ads** **The Fishin' Magician**

The general lowland lake season opener is coming up at the end of the month, and there are a couple of events that help get kids and their families tuned up for the season. These early spring events are always popular as they offer the kids the chance to catch some trout, and for many of them it is their first. It is important that these local events are supported, as they are an investment in the future of the sport of fishing. We need to get new people involved and "hooked on fishing", and this is a great way to do it.

I had a terrific time in Moses Lake last Saturday. I was at the 3rd Annual Columbia Basin Trout Derby at Connelly Park. The Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District puts this one on and it's sponsored by Weinstein Beverage. The MLIRD does an excellent job preparing the park after the winter, and an amazing job of organizing the day, to include much more than just fishing. There are important demonstrations for families to observe and other fun activities to enjoy while they are in the park. Moses Lake High School is well represented at this one. The kids volunteer to provide life guard duties, help kids with their fishing gear and even clean the fish.

This coming weekend, on Saturday April 23rd, I will be at the Free Kids Fishing Day at Rock Island. I first invited kids under the age of 15 and their families to come to the Pit Pond, which is a juvenile's only pond, over twelve years ago. I started doing this at the first of March to get them excited about the early season fishing at Burke and Quincy lakes.

Since I moved it to the week prior to the general lowland season opener each year, we have had much better weather. The numbers of those who have attended have grown from maybe fifty to around four hundred.

The City of Rock Island does a great job getting the area around the Pit Pond cleared and ready for all the eager anglers. There wasn't a whole bunch of open shore when we first started this one, and now anglers can fish from the bank all the way around the lake. Ray Pierson has organized a cook shack every year. He gets great support from the local businesses and provides coffee and donuts in the morning, and cooks hot dogs for everyone later in the day. Pepsi now provides soft drinks for everyone.

Several years ago the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association got involved and it has really made a difference. The WSA is well-known for their work for wildlife in our area, and they have been helping out with this and other fishing events for years now, too. They began by showing up with some various bits of fishing tackle, as many kids have a rod and reel, but they are often in pretty sad shape. The WSA would make sure

the kids got some new line, some sinkers and hooks and even bait so they would have a decent chance at catching a trout. Now they show up in numbers with all kinds of tackle and bait and even have rods and reels that can be used by families to catch some trout and are returned before they leave. The WSA even buys radio advertising to alert everyone that the event is happening, and that has had huge impact on attendance.



I gotta thank Tom at Hooked on Toys for all the help he has given me over the years. He has always been willing to make sure I had what I needed to make sure that the kids had a good time. I also want to thank the Department of Fish and Wildlife and folks at the hatchery. The Pit Pond is loaded with rainbow every year, and they even throw in some whoppers to make things interesting.

On Sunday May 1st there is another event that has been going on longer than the Rock Island Kids Fishing Day. It's the annual Central Washington Bass Club Yard Sale. For probably 20 years this

group's members have gone through their garages and tackle boxes and brought all their "extra" fishing gear together and invited the public to come and get some great bargains. This year it will be on Wenatchee Avenue at the Grocery Outlet Store, beginning at 9 a.m. and running until 3 p.m. I have participated before and will again this year. I will have a huge variety of gear there myself. Everything from bass gear to salmon and steelhead rods and reels and other tackle I can live without will be on sale at garage sale prices. You will be able to see my Town Ford F-150 parked in front, and behind it will be my new Jetcraft boat from Bob Feil Boats.

Also coming up on Friday April 29th and Saturday April 30th is the Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. This weekend show, at the Kittitas Valley Events Center, offers a huge gathering of fly fishing related information; including hordes of fly tiers, casting classes, seminars and even vendors of fly fishing trips and gear. This is easily the biggest fly fishing event this side of the mountains, and I am going to take it in this year.

All of this fun stuff and I haven't even talked about where to go for the general lowland lake opener this season. I'll talk about that next week. Right now I'm loading the boat for a trip to Fish Lake!

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

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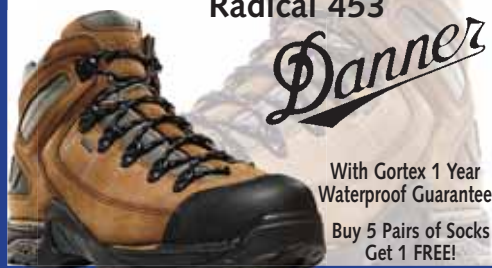
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