

## Lake Lenice Outing

Fishmasters Dan Green and Bob Young

### Why Go?

The lake has hard-fighting, 12" to 20", trophy rainbows. At times you catch one and wait and wait for a repeat performance, other times it's red-hot action. These trout are the big attraction at Lenice. Also, some excellent camaraderie around the campfire, stark, wild landscapes during the day, and breathtaking skies at night.

Don't miss it!

**When:** March 3 -4, Saturday and Sunday. Opening day is Thursday, March 1, and many will be there for the opening. Come when you can. Communal supper is Saturday at about 6 PM with Wet Fly Hour at about 5 PM.

**Meeting Point:** We will be camping at the Lake Lenice (primitive) campground. The campground is accessed from Beverly which is situated on HWY 243 (about 15 minutes south of Vantage on I-90), then heading east on Lower Crab Creek Road (gravel road heading east off the main road that may also show up on GPS/mapping programs as Road 17 SW). CFS signs will guide you to the "campground" which is visible from Lower Crab Creek Road.

To access via Yakima and the Hanford Reservation, take Hwy 24 from Yakima and continue until you cross the Columbia River at Hanford; about 50 miles. Immediately after crossing the Columbia, take a left on Hwy 243 and continue north through small towns of Desert Aire and Mattawa, then to Beverly, then turn right on Crab Creek Road and follow as above.

**Motels:** Rooms are available 20 minutes away at the Desert Aire Motel and Restaurant, in the town of Desert Air, a few miles south of Beverly on Hwy 243. 509-932-4300, or in Vantage, WA, at the Vantage Riverston Resort and Motel, 509-856-2800, with restaurant and camp ground. Also, there is a state of Washington campground with amenities at Vantage.

**Communal Meal:** We are planning on cooking and serving hamburgers with an assortment of side dishes for the Saturday evening get-together and meal. For all other meals, you are on your own.

The club will provide the hamburgers, buns, and condiments. If your last name begins with A to M, please bring a side dish. If your name begins with N to Z, please bring an appetizer. All other last names, you don't need to bring anything. Please bring a beverage or beverages of your choice and chairs for each of your party.

**Fishery:** There are three lakes at this location – Lenice, Nunnally, and Merry. We tend to fish Lenice. It is a medium size lake and has provided good fishing in the past for us. The lake has a

good population of trout, and there are plenty of different types of lake areas: reeds, shoals, shallows, some deep spots, so plenty for all of us to try many fishing methods.

### **Flies**

Chironomid patterns are the main flies that we hear about as successful: Chromies, Red and Blacks, Frostbites, Zebra Midges, Disco Midges, Bloodworms, Ice Cream Cones, and Brassies and probably a couple dozen more I've never heard of. Also the old standby Woolley Bugger, or micro leeches, sunk deep and retrieved,. Also Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tails and other popular wet flies can be effective.

Also at times dry flies such as Griffith's Gnat or Adams or emergers such as a WD - 40 have worked well.

**Methods:** You will not find many wading-only opportunities at Lake Lenice. Some sort of water craft is essential. Kayaks, pontoon boats, and car-top boats are all good options. **Float tubes are not safe at this time of year due to the ice-cold water.** One important note, the lake is a little less than half a mile (over 2000 feet) from the campground area and requires you to carry/handwheel/ hand-trailer/get help to carry, your floating fishing platform to the lake access point from where you can unload your craft from your vehicle. We do leave our boats at the Lake overnight; they seem pretty safe there.

**Equipment:** A mid-weight fishing rod with full-sinking, intermediate and floating lines are needed as conditions dictate. We recommend a 6-wt rod with at least 9 feet length. Lines, leaders, and tippets for sinking and floating lines should be packed. We have had 4x and 5x tippet break off with larger fish, so be ready to change leaders and tippets and have some spares.

If you are new to fishing lakes, here's an approach you might use to get started: Rig and carry two rods when fishing lakes such as Lenice. One rod, say a 6-weight, with a full-sinking line and a short leader (3 to 4 foot) tapering to 3X or 4x, then a leech pattern such as a woolly bugger, or a chironomid, or a streamer. Use this rod when there is no surface activity. The other rod, say a 4 or 5-weight, rig with a floating line and a long leader, say ten feet, ending with 5X or 6x tippet. For this rig, flies can be either emergers or dries. Try this rod when there is surface activity.

Another alternative with the floating line, popular at Lenice, is to put a small bobber along the length of the leader so that you can slide it up or down, then tie on a small, weighted chironomid fly. The fly will sink, the bobber will float, and when the fish hits the fly, the bobber will go down and you set the hook. You can adjust the depth of the fly by sliding the bobber up or down on the leader. You will need to have a long leader, nine or 10 feet, or even longer, depending on the depth.

Another alternative is two bead head woolly buggers with one as the dropper fly fished on a sinking line.

If you don't own two rods, don't worry, but, if at all possible, bring both a full-sinking line and a floating line.

If you have questions about gear, shoot us an e mail (see addresses below).

### **Boating Equipment**

If boating, you are required to carry a life preserver, (a "PFD" if you please), for each person on your boat, including pontoon boats. You should consider a PFD that you can wear full-time in comfort while on the water. Also, you must carry a whistle or other signaling device. Highly recommended that you carry a suitable anchor and line. **It gets windy**, and when it does, you may need to anchor off. Internal combustion engines are prohibited on these lakes, but electric motors are OK.

**Weather and Clothing: Plan on cold and windy** and we might be pleasantly surprised by better weather. Clothing layers are essential. Evenings and nights will be cold, so make sure your camp clothing and bedding will keep you warm.

### **Fishing Regs**

All three lakes are under **Selective Gear Rules**.

Required to park or camp at the Lenice parking lot is **EITHER** a state of Washington Discover Pass, **OR** a WDFW **Vehicle Access Pass**.

### **Head-count**

If you plan to attend this outing and catch some of these great fish, please send an email to Bob Young at [boby121346@gmail.com](mailto:boby121346@gmail.com) to help us get a fairly accurate head-count for the Saturday evening meal. Dan Green [dgreen066@gmail.com](mailto:dgreen066@gmail.com) will be in China from Jan 30 through Feb 26, so address questions during that time to Bob Young.

Hope to see you there!