

## LAKE LENICE OUTING – APRIL 7-9

### By Dan Green

**Fishmasters** Dan Green, [dgreen066@gmail.com](mailto:dgreen066@gmail.com) and Bob Young, [byoung@d-bpower.com](mailto:byoung@d-bpower.com)

**Why go:** The lake has hard-fighting, 12 to 20-inch 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 make this a great outing.

**When:** April 7, 8, & 9. There will be Wet Fly hour at about 5:00 PM followed by a communal supper Saturday at about 6:00 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" from the highway.

**Motels:** Rooms are available 20 minutes away in Desert Aire at the Desert Aire Motel and restaurant, 509-932-4300, or in Vantage WA at the Vantage Riverston Resort and Motel, 509-856-2800, with restaurant and campground. 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 mostly tend to fish Lenice. It is a medium sized 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-- plenty for all of us to try many fishing methods. We have recently heard from a few of our members and we have seen several articles that talk about early fishing in March (and beginning of April) being very good at Lenice.

### Flies

Chironomid patterns are the main flies that we hear about as being successful, along with other nymphs such as Damselfly Nymphs and Woolley Buggers. Many experienced anglers on the trip will recommend their favorite killer flies. Also, dry flies such as Griffith's Gnat or Adams have worked well.

**Methods:** You will not find many wading-only opportunities at Lake Lenice. Some sort of water craft such as float tubes, kayaks, pontoon boats are good options. 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. Leaders and tippets for sinking and for 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:

It is advantageous to rig and carry two rods when fishing lakes such as Lenice. One rod should be a 6-wt, rigged with a full-sinking line and a short leader (3 to 4 foot) tapering to 3x or 4x, with a leech pattern such as a woolly bugger, or a streamer. Use this when there is no surface activity. The other rod should be a 4 or 5-wt, rigged with a floating line and a long leader, about ten feet, ending with 5x or 6x tippet. Flies can be either emergers or dries. Try this rod when there is surface activity.

Another alternative with the floating line that is 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 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.

If you don't own two rods, don't worry. However, be sure (if you can) to 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"), for each person on your boat including pontoon boats. Also, you must carry a whistle or other signaling device. It is 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:** We have experienced some great weather on past outings, not too cold for too long, but it can get windy in the afternoon. Clothing layers are essential. Evenings and nights can be cold, so make sure your camp clothing and bedding will keep you warm.

**Fishing Regulations:** All three lakes are under **Selective Gear Rules:**

Only unscented artificial flies or lures with one single-point, barbless hook are allowed. Up to a total of three artificial flies or lures, each containing one single-point, barbless hook may be used. Bait is prohibited; fish may be released until the daily limit is retained. Only knotless nets

may be used to land fish except where specifically allowed under Special Rules for individual waters. If any fish has swallowed the hook or is hooked in the gill, eye, or tongue, it should be kept if legal to do so.

**Retention limit:** No minimum size. Daily limit 1 Trout.

Don't forget to purchase your new fishing license effective April 1.

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

**Headcount:** If you plan to attend this outing and catch some of these great fish, please send an email to Dan at [dgreen066@gmail.com](mailto:dgreen066@gmail.com) and Bob at [byoung@d-bpower.com](mailto:byoung@d-bpower.com) so to help us get a fairly accurate head-count for the Saturday evening meal.