

A NOTE FROM: Lorie Hagen

This years Federation of Fly Fishers event took us on a road trip from Mitchell, South Dakota to Spokane, Washington. The event was held at 3 Lakes Fly Fishing resort in northeastern Washington State which showcased 3 private mountaintop lakes with quality fly fishing in a very private setting, offering excellent fisheries for Kamloop Rainbow, Eastern Brook, and Cutthroat Trout. The sizes range up to 8lbs and often average 2-3 lbs. We used 5/6 wt. fly rod with floating and sinking tip fly line and an assortment of both dry flies and nymphs along with a soft net.

Our class started at 9:00 am Monday morning. It was a beautiful, calm morning for brushing up on casting. As quickly as it started it stopped as a moose interrupted class by swimming across the lake that we were practicing on. Needless to say my casting is much improved from our instructor's lesson, there's nothing like casting with a fairly clear back-casting area.

After a great lunch our instructors gave a class on lake fishing, bug selection, and a refresher on knot tying. It was now time to put practice into procedure as we moved over to the lake to see if we could fool any fish, but with the hot weather the fish were not very active.

With the scorching hot weather outside I decided to retreat to the indoors and enjoy an air conditioned fly tying class. After a few hours cooling down I was eager to test out my new flies. So with a beautiful sunset and the evening bite picking up I managed to only miss a couple of bites, not a bad way to end the first day.

One of the instructors took sympathy on me and asked if I would be willing to start day two a few hours earlier than the rest of the class, she said she fished the morning bite and caught over 40 fish. So day 2 started at 6:30 am we did a little fishing off the dock and we each got lucky and caught a few nice Brookies.

After a great breakfast we went back out on the boats and used sinking lines. This makes a big difference in your casting, but it didn't take long to get the hang of it. Soon we were catching fish as fast as we could get our line out.

It's amazing how fast time flies when the fish are biting.

