

EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb

Fishing Tip:

As we head into the far turn of 2006, the lakes, streams and rivers have finally settled down and water clarity is good, so now is the time to enjoy the early fall fishing season. You will want to have an assortment of caddisflies, mayflies and small stones as well as a good supply of attractor flies and terrestrials. Attractors should include bright dots, royal coachman, renegades, and terrestrials such as hoppers, beetles and flying ants.

Remember to come prepared for any type of weather this time of year, as it can change at a moment's notice and some of the best fishing is during the worst weather. Dress in layers and don't be fooled by the warm days, as the evenings are starting to cool; and even a bit of color has started to show on the aspens at higher elevations.

Legislation:

Although AB7 legislation was signed by the Governor to maintain and enhance the state hatchery system, there still seems to be a dilemma as to how this will be implemented. Although several meetings with top DFG staff have been held, nothing has been confirmed as to how the monies will be put back into the Hatchery Inland Fishing Fund (HIFF). Greg Hurner of Fish and Game (916.651.6719) will answer any questions regarding the implementation, and it is also outlined on their web site.

Fishy News: The next load of Susanville Browns (American Trout & Salmon) hit the West Walker, Saddlebag, Lundy and Twin Lakes in Mammoth 8.17.6.

Fishing Report:

ROCK CREEK has been doing well on wooly buggers in black, and dark brown, bug-eyed damsels, and Hornbergs with standard dries hitting early and late. The mosquitoes are on Holiday in Cancun until next June, and your dividend payments will definitely drop as I sold all my DEET stock last week.

CROWLEY LAKE has had some problems but it's improving daily so don't miss a chance to hit the water. Water clarity is good and the fish are hanging in about 10' of water in McGee and Hilton bays. Try Stevie's Wonder Gray/Black, Zonkers, Matukas, PA perch and olive leeches. UPPER OWENS is doing well below the bridge towards the lake and some great dry fly action on hoppers, flying ants, and mayflies, and small dark sedge patterns.

HOT CREEK has been breezy with a great caddis hatch late in the afternoon. Water conditions are great so use lighter leader and try terrestrials for a great dry fly day.

CONVICT tubers are still dragging buggers, leeches, damsels and spruce flies around the southwest section of

the lake near the inlet and about 50 feet away from the outlet, also try some beadhead black wooly bugger with a peacock body, it will take you to the 9th inning.

MAMMOTH BASIN reports good action on Lake Mamie near the inlet with olive zonkers, and burgundy leech patterns. Twin Lakes near the falls with a Stevie's Wonder black/silver under an Adams or stripping an olive leech with a Prince nymph on a slow sink line.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER has been good and the water is wader friendly, so fish the water with terrestrials or with a dry/dropper rig, bead head nymphs, stimulators, Adams, Caddis #16-18. You can sell your stock in DEET and watch the DOW for next June-July.

JUNE LOOP ~ Good to excellent action found at Grant and June with olive Matukas, brown wooly buggers, olive damsels, cinnamon twin lakes specials, tiger stripe Matukas, black ghosts, and soft hackle hares ears..

LUNDY has continued with a great caddis hatch in the ponds behind the resort and along the southwest shore at the inlet, and dries have been doing a great job also. The Susanville Browns were planted, 600 pounds of the beauties, so bring your best strategies.

VIRGINIA LAKES – The Susanville browns have not shown a fin with one exception on a custom tie. Standard dries have been getting the most hits in the evening, bi-visible, mosquitoes, grey hackle yellow, and Griffith's gnat. Olive/black wooly buggers, olive flash leeches, emergers #18-20, and flies you can't even see the eye to tie your leader with. Our second load arrived on 8.21.6, and these browns are huge, come have some fun and join in the excitement, as they won't start to hit for about a week.

EAST WALKER is at 338cfs so try some micro mayflies, caddis emergers, San Juan worms, soft hackle beadhead (dark bead), and streamers near the banks for those hard to catch "guys" hanging under the ledges very early and very late and hang on. Bridgeport Fish Enhancement program stocked some 3,000 4-5" brown trout in the Rez., so there should be a good showing by next summer. They are also scheduled to release the remainder of the "babes" (roughly 5,000 in the East Walker shortly. Ok, maybe this is a test, but it sure is going to taste mighty fine to those "big boys" in the water. This has been an unselfish effort on the part of the Wenger's at Paradise Shores and all those involved in promoting a great brown program for the area.

WEST WALKER also got 650 pounds of Susanville Browns. Early innings of heavy water have finally upped the batting average, as this water has calmed down to 182cfs and is now fishing well. Try some dries or large attractors, hoppers, humpy's with a lightly weighted nymph, or small terrestrials over your midge.

Anyone familiar with Denny Rickard's flies need to check into the colors and size he uses for still water fishing, better yet, get on the Internet and check out the web site and polish up your vice and emery your finger tips and start tying some of his emergers. These will surprise you.

See you on the water! CJ