

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip:

Cold water can create some problems for anglers and the need to be creative and patient is a required if you want some success. The retrieve should be slow, using flashy streamers, and checking depths at 3 or 4-minute intervals to locate fish in any water over 15 feet. Temperatures play a big part in determining where the fish are holding and what they are feeding on. Be alert, patient and bring your armory and the rewards will come.

Weather

Eastern Sierra weather changed drastically with wind battering the anglers from every direction. May brought summer with the remainder of spring and a smattering (good word) of winter to remind us that "Mother" is still in control, and as the saying goes, if you don't like the weather, wait 10 minutes. Spring run off has been slow with low cfs on the East Walker river. Bridgeport Reservoir is full but flows won't increase until the ranchers determine their needs.

Legislation

The Department of Fish and has located catch-able trout for negative mud snail waters for north Mono County and will see limits for the 2007 season. DFG will be moving fish into the area from Crystal, Fillmore and Mojave hatcheries to fulfill the AB7 hatchery bill. The Fish and Game Commission will be meeting in Bridgeport in July to determine if the new catch and release regulations need to be rescinded for the health of the resource.

The bad news is that the mud snail is spreading and getting closer to the Fish Springs hatchery, which will create more problems for the general angler for those that would like to see all the wild trout remain.

Please remember to clean all your gear should you fish in mud snail positive areas.

ROCK CREEK reports were good early on due to the warmer temps and attractor dries were doing the job. The lake temperatures were a bit unstable for flies and only streamers were seeing action and dry with a dropper. I did the upper meadow and the water was up and saw only a few flat spots below Marsh lake chasing that brown that eludes me annually, but I have a feeling it's going to take my new fly.

CONVICT has been fair on streamers with a bit of flash and the red throated Matuka has been fairly hot.. Fish the inlet and outlets and sit and watch before your cast.

HOT CREEK – water is mostly clear and flows are comfortable, and producing early and late when the temps are right. I checked the brushy areas for bugs and turned over more rocks in the stream for any change in habitat and for about ¾ of a mile, and bugs were plentiful. There has been a great caddis hatch coming off so try the Dry/dropper rig for Caddis/Baetis #16-18 with stimulator as top dog, #16-18 Micro Stone, #20 BWO Cripple. You can probably do some dry action late in the day, but nymphs early through midday would be your best bet. Bring small midges and go to cloud

nine. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail.

CROWLEY opener was crowded due to the excellent weather and conditions. Fishing wasn't terrific early on, and fish are in deeper water. Try Chironomids #16-18, as the hatch has been terrific, and leaches and fish are spread in Hilton Bay, Leighton Springs and Sandy point. Also try #18 Black Optimidge with dubbed head and #16 blood worms. **MAMMOTH BASIN** lakes are fishing well and streamers are the ticket to getting into fish. Cold air and even colder water has deterred a lot of bugs, but dragging a streamer or using nymphs can find fish.

SAN JOAQUIN was open as of the 26th with Reds Meadow road to Devils Postpile projected for the 29th.

RUSH CREEK has been hitting Copper Johns, #16-18 flashback pheasant tails and #12 Glo bugs, so bring an assortment and test your skill, it's a fun area. **JUNE LAKE** loop has been producing on and off depending on the wind and day temperature.

Stay with standard streamers in dark patterns and near weedy areas by the west end of the lake. There are a lot of deer in the area so stay alert and avoid collisions; it's their home too.

GULL LAKE - Try streamers, buggers, mini leeches with a dropper near west end by the weeds. Tim will be visiting this lake on a weekly basis according to the owner.

SILVER LAKE has been spotty with most of the fish coming out near the Rush Creek inlet area. Typical streamers with a bit of flash should produce nicely. Maybe even some Pistol Pete's.

GRANT LAKE reports good catches on the south shore when the wind is down on various large streamers with some weight.

LUNDY ~ No Report

VIRGINIA LAKES - The Rickard's Stillwater nymph in peacock and rust have taken the award for the month along with the red-throated Matuka, pumpkin wooly, light blue wooly and the peacock body wooly. Water is still fairly cold and the air is starting to warm up nicely. Water level will be down by August creating other problems on nearby streams. Current temperature is 48 degrees at 4 feet down and 15 feet from shore.

EAST WALKER flow is at 101cfs now and has not had a huge release as yet, and as the reservoir rises the flow will increase on a moderate scale unless the ranchers change their needs. I scouted the area again and found midges, caddis, and you name it was there. It would take an entire page to list everything that has been working Silver Streaks, the usual San Juan worms, bird's nests, tiny zebra midges, WD40's, and Tail-water Tiny for best results.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR has been hit and miss and is probably going to flip. Midging has been slow, and Richard's Stillwater nymph has been getting the action. Water has been stocked by Crystal Lake hatchery up north and they are getting huge loads every two weeks due to the logistics and mud snails at Hot Creek Hatchery. Water temp is at 52 degrees.

WEST WALKER flow has fluctuated for over a week and it is fairly high. Look for calm side water and stay sub-surface with tiger midges and use a large dry attractor for the top fly. See you on the water. CJ (7.5)