

## Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

### **Fishing Tip: Ultrathon 6 week formula, it really works!**

*Observation on any water prior to that first cast should at the top of your list if you want a chance at the hawg that created the wake toward the far side of the stream. Not to mention that you probably spooked every single fish within 50 feet. Also, take time to study the bottom; a Nymphing trout's white mouth can be seen with a watchful eye.*

*The golden rules are 1) find the fish, 2) Don't spook the fish, 3) Determine what the fish is feeding on, and 4) get the fly to it without spooking it.*

*Ok, we know all this, but how often do we seriously apply it? I'm not an example to be followed, as the waiting around for the first cast of the season puts me into a frenzy and I just want to get out there and stretch my arm as I have new patterns to try and my pulse is racing like a thoroughbred in the home stretch. But this year due to May's weather which forced me to "breathe" longer than normal before hitting the water, I decided to take a step back, observe the water behind cover not more than 10 feet from shore and look into the water. I noticed a lot more than I had on previous trips to this same location. Rocks, undercut banks, drowned logs and debris and some nice trout taking cover on the shade side of everything. Once you learn to see through it, you will notice more movement, edges of fins, sideways fining or darting, white mouth edges and shadows. As painful as it is at times, I make myself sit for at least 5 or more minutes before I start rigging up (too impatient to do it at the car) and then I look around for bush bugs, and hovering hatches to determining what the fish are eating and how near the surface they are feeding. You will catch less fish, and you will spook some fish, but restraint is the key if you are targeting the BIG ONE in the "pond". Your presentation is important so don't make unnecessary false casts; toss that fly with confidence regardless of the adrenaline pumping and if nothing happens, cast one more time and then wait. YES, wait and see what happens. Yes he sees it, but he is also waiting and he is just better at this than you. He has patience because he has to, he didn't get big by being stupid.*

### **Weather:**

*Summer continues to bring great weather to the Eastern Sierra along with run-off in some areas. Be safe, wise and most of all be careful in treacherous water you are not accustomed to.*

**News** – Plan ahead--purchase your fishing license **ON-LINE**. Fish and Game lost over 280 license agents with the new automated data licensing. More wardens are on the beat this summer and checking licenses.

**Legislation** – Still awaiting the news and will report when available.

### **Fishing Report: Some waters above 10,000' still frozen.**

*Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size, and gear.*

**ROCK CREEK** No report as I could not get up there to drop a line.

**HOT CREEK** – Water is good and stripping streamers is working the best. The flows are dropping daily and it's breezy. Trico hatches are going off early, and then go to Caddis in the afternoon. Dries working are CDC Caddis Emerger #18, tan hoppers, Grey Para-caddis #18. Nymphs: Tan Nitro Caddis #18, Anderson's Tan Bird of Prey #20, BH flashback pheasant tail #22, and a 2-bit hooker #22.

Streamers: Black Doc's TL Special size 10.

*Please stay out of the water and help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.*

**CROWLEY LAKE** water temps are running between 51 to 63F. Check for the perfect temp of 57 with your thermometers. Daphnia seems to be gone and fish have returned to the bottom in search of midges. Bottom water is getting into the 60's and fish are starting to move into McGee Bay and other sources of cold water. The algae are thick and moving around so you have to be ready to move with it. The troops are moving all along the old stream channel where the bottom temp is about 52 to 53 degrees and not much going on there. Damsels and callibaetis are starting to hatch so hang one under the indicator about half way down the water column. Try red, black and purple Optimidges early, blood midge, gold bead red/black Optimidge #18, Mickey's red baron, ultimate damsel, and Jansen's Callibaetis. Forget dries for now, but Doc's Twin Lake Special black/olive #10, Hornberg #10, and olive Matuka #10 and also the ultimate damsel.

**UPPER OWENS** flows are at 99cfs above the Hot Creek confluence but down a bit from last week and starting to pick up. Dries working are #20 Para Adams, #16 Goddard Caddis, #16 Elk Hair Caddis and #10 hoppers. Nymphs are Zebra's San Juan Worms. Streamers working are black/olive buggers and Hornbergs.

**OWENS RIVER GORGE** flow is a permanent 45cfs required by LADWP. Water is clear and cold. Stinging nettles have their pickers out so swear leg protection and don't forget the water. Bring your arsenal of top water favorites like humpy's 318, rubber leg stimulator, green humpy #16 and Red Copper John #18 and #16 Western Coachman.

**CONVICT** reports said to try mostly black, or burgundy woollies, and Olive Hornbergs size 8. Of course the Pistol Pete might give you an TIA. **MAMMOTH** – Water has warmed up some, but be prepared for thunderstorms this time of summer, this is the Sierra and the weather can change at a moments notice. Try Streamers in olive, olive/black/black, dark purple, and olive Hornbergs. Dries are working so try some Adams Parachute, Mosquitoes, PMD's, and fur body ants **SAN JOAQUIN** is running clear and cold and has had some nice hatches. Try some San Juan worms red/pink, copper John red/green #18, and bead head Prince Nymph #18 and BH Yellow Sally #14.

**JUNE LAKE** reports good fishing on large streamers, the uglier the better, fish near the west end near weedy spots and don't spook the cutts. Drop your type IV sink and dip and strip working in lanes.

**GULL LAKE** – Hawgs apparently are still stocked from Alpers trophy pond, so get up here and catch a nice trophy trout and help us feed these mosquitoes. Tie on dark streamers, woolies, Hornbergs, anything big and dark. It's all good.

**SILVER LAKE** flows are starting to level out so try fishing the bank in search for trout, or just look for some slow weedy areas, and there are plenty, and toss that dry with conviction. Afternoon flies are standard dries like stackers, parachutes, umbrellas, or anything that will stay afloat and look tasty.

**GRANT LAKE** - Water is cold and clear, and fuller than full with good reports on fishing. Check with the marina for the best area and flies, it has been inconsistent.

**LUNDY LAKE** reports great sport on the ponds and the west end. Try Black or dark olive, purple Wooly buggers #8, also dark olive Hornbergs, Spruce-a-boo and Pistol Pete's out near the inlet.

**VIRGINIA LAKES** has done the best with the BH olive woolly bugger, Rickard's Stillwater nymph, Zug Bugs, black leeches, partridge and yellow soft hackles, and elk hair caddis for the evening hatch, mosquitoes, Griffith's Gnats, and Grey Hackle Yellow (trimmed). Enhancement Alpers arrived along with DFG's 800 pounds and the game was on.

**EAST WALKER** flow as of this writing is **366cfs**, and fishing reports are good. Catching is possible even when the flows are high. Water is still off color, but fishing is pretty good especially in the am and pm with a caddis hatch at dusk.

Elk hair caddis #16, Stimulator #16, hoppers, ants and foam beetles.

Nymphs: Fox's caddis poopah #16, Anderson's bird of prey olive #16, olive Nitro Caddis #16, olive bottom roller caddis #16, and don't forget the mouse patterns in the late pm.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** is very full and doing great with water temps in mid to upper 50's. Try Hare's Ear #16-16, pleasant tails #14-16, #16 tiger midges, #16 Callibaetis nymph. Punk Perch, Perfection perch, Purple leeches, and black wooly buggers will round it out.

**WEST WALKER** flow is **1290 cfs** and the best fishing will be around and north of the bridge in the flat water. Still off color, but they are down there, so try some small midges, San Juan worms, hare's ear (BH), or Mayfly Micro midge.

**TIOGA PASS** – Park Service opened the pass June 18<sup>th</sup> to all vehicles at 8:00 a.m. There are several no-stopping zones along the road, which are clearly marked with road signs. Camping opportunities are Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, and Wawona; reservations are required. Tamarack Flat and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds are open on a first-come, first-served basis. Tuolumne Meadows Campground is open; half the campground is first-come, first-served.

Porcupine Flat, White Wolf, and Yosemite Creek Campgrounds are still closed for the season (but should open soon). Check campground availability by calling 209.372.0266.

See you on the water, CJ 11.7.26