

By CJ Webb - August 2024

Mule Deer Summer Migration is ongoing so be alert and watch for white butts and/or eyes in your headlights when driving. Early morning and dusk are the worst times so please be vigilant and stay alive. Glance left and right along the road edges as they usually will cross the road to get to water.

Wildlife Crossings: A Collaborative Solution - See CalTrans road project which started last week.

2024 Inland Water Fishing Regulations have a couple changes, so download the app to see if there are any changes to the waters you enjoy fishing. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. It tracks your current GPS location and will tell you the regulations of the water where you are standing and regulations for waters within a designated area or approximately a five-mile radius.

FISHY NEWS - California Fly Fisher Magazine FIRST ISSUE ARRIVED 3 weeks ago.

Early March Richard Anderson, former publisher and editor of *California Fly Fisher* announced that the magazine will continue under new ownership with a new team as its helm: Tracy Diaz as publisher and George Revel as editor-at-large. Both Tracey and George bring fresh energy, insights, and perspectives to the magazine, and of course a passion for fly fishing and for the angling adventures found throughout our state.

A message from Tracey Diaz and George Revel stated "*California Fly Fisher* has been an advisor for angling adventures, a teacher of techniques, and a storyteller of the diverse and vibrant world of California's rivers and for over three decades. We are thrilled and honored that Richard has entrusted us to carry that heritage forward while injecting a fresh perspective on the unique culture, the tight-knit community, and the remarkable individuals who define fly fishing in California".

"The revitalized *California Fly Fisher* magazine and digital site, coming this summer, will inform, inspire, educate, and connect anglers across the Gold State and beyond...each issue will celebrate California's diverse fisheries, rivers, and people, brought to life through captivating storytelling, expert insights, and stunning photography. Our mission is clear: to empower our readers to explore, conserve, and cherish the natural wonders that define California's fly-fishing heritage. As we embark on this new chapter together, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Your dedication fuels our passion, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve you".

Tight lines and warm regards, Tracy Diaz, Publisher and George Revel, Editor-at-Large.



Lefty Kreh and I had been friends for many years. After we opened a fly shop, I decided it was time to take Cathy too meet Lefty and receive some advanced casting lessons. Lefty immediately took Cathy under his wing and spent hours upon hours coaching her and tweaking her casting style. She learned from the greatest teacher of all time.

At one point a few months later, we were both watching Cathy cast and Lefty looked at me and said, "Do you see it? Her loop . . . it's my loop."

He was right. We were watching the arrow-point, perfectly formed loop that Kreh was famous for, but Lefty wasn't casting.

Lefty took Cathy aside and gave her important advice she would live by the rest of her life. He said, "Cathy, there are people in our sport who show off their skills, and then there are people who share their skills. I always want you to be the latter."

Years went by and Lefty and Cathy's friendship continued to grow. We moved our fly shop from Berwick to Benton, Pennsylvania, near Fishing Creek where we became a destination and mail-order fly shop.

Our business grew, and soon we received a letter from The Orvis Company offering us a job in marketing. They wanted us to promote Orvis products in our schools, casting clinics, and in our hosted travel, which we were doing on our own at that time. My father's original tackle shop was one of the first Orvis dealers in the state and our fly shop was an Orvis shop and we already sold a lot of Orvis gear. The contract sat on our kitchen table as we kicked the idea around. We were elated. We always had a good relationship with the company and with the Perkins family. At that time, Orvis was doing more than any other organization to promote our sport, and we felt honored by the offer.

The next morning Lefty called Cathy just to say hello. She excitedly told Lefty about the Orvis offer, and he immediately asked her not to sign in. She was surprised. Lefty had great things to say about Orvis, but he wanted us both to join him at Sage.

Lefty asked us to give him 24 hours, and the next day, Marc Bale, vice president of marketing and sales at Sage, called and made a counter offer. In the end, our choice wasn't based on the money, it was about friendships. Cathy needed to be with Lefty, to be on the

same team, attend the same events, be aligned on the same products, work with the same designers. Lefty chose us to be on his team, and we trusted his judgment.

A few years later, another call came from Lefty changed our lives. Lefty had been hosting trips for a Pennsylvania-based company called Frontiers International, but was unable to continue as he had just taken a job working for his good friend Johnny Morris at Bass Pro Shops. Lefty said it would be a personal favor to him if we would consider filling his role at Frontiers, as he had deep respect and admiration for the Fitzgerald family and wanted to make sure they continued to thrive. We happily filled his shoes at Frontiers and have enjoyed 31 years of hosting trips for them around the world. Cathy passed away suddenly in February 2024 while we were hosting a trip for Frontiers at Estancia Laguna Verde in Argentina. She spent the day helping others, and on her last day of fishing caught a gorgeous rainbow trout herself.

Cathy always said that taking the job at Frontiers was one of the best decisions that we had ever made. She had the greatest respect for the Fitzgerald family and the whole team at Frontiers as it evolved over the years. Part III next edition "Author/Photographer".

Fishing TIP:

Leaning to read water and catch more trout!

All rivers flow in a riffle, run and hole with repetition. In a small creek a run could last about 50 feet, in a huge river may last for miles, regardless, both have runs, followed by riffles, followed by holes containing continuously flowing water that constantly push their stream beds down stream. What happens is small rocks build up against larger one and pressure builds then the stream becomes shallower, and the water starts to move faster (same CFS + decreased depth = faster moving water). Just like that, a run becomes a riffle. The riffle forms a hole when enough sand and small rocks get backed up against a big boulder creating a stopping point. Then a ramp forms from the constant flow beneath the water and will speed up over the big boulder and plunges creating a calm, deep, slow-moving pool. The best place for trout is because of the increase in depth which stabilizes and will then transition from a hole, then back to a run.

First step learning to read water is memorize and define what types of water you fish and understand how each type behaves, and how fish behave in those types of water. This will improve and also show you how to properly present your fly in those types of water.

Legislative News: NO Change on UPDATE of AB-817

AB-817: Sport fishing licenses: electronic display: 12-consecutive-month licenses was **Approved by the Governor in 2021. Side-note:** Much was made of Assembly Bill 817 authored by Assembly member Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) and signed into law by Governor Newsom. AB 817 made it possible for CDFW to provide

an electronic display option for sport fishing license items and sell a sport fishing license that will be valid for 365 days from the purchase date rather than the calendar year.

Latest news states "This bill would, until January 1, 2030, authorize the Director of Fish and Wildlife to allow 12-consecutive-month sport fishing licenses to be issued in addition to certain calendar year licenses. The bill would require the director to provide the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2025, recommendation for increasing fees for all sport fishing licenses to levels that provide adequate resources to fund sport fishing, including all necessary supporting activities, at the department. The bill would require the director, on or before July 1, 2028, to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating all sport fishing licenses, as provided.

Should there be any changes, I will contact Assemblyman Wood and provide that information.

CDFW 'Buy a Stamp' to help a Game Warden

Officials at the CDFW are urging anglers to contribute to a Warden Stamp Program that helps game wardens and the enforcement of fish-and-wildlife laws. According to the CDFW, purchase of the \$5 stamp will "procure vital equipment, protective gear, and training for wildlife officers and enhance the department's K-9 Program." Information on how to make a donation is available at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp>

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Stocking

updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

AT THE BENCH:

Body Poppers

Upavon HD Foam Caddis/Hopper Bodies and Beetle Bodies. These are foam sheets out of which pop pre-cut shapes. Black for beetle bodies, Green for Caddis or Hoppers.

Squinting at the green sheet, - there's two sizes on each sheet. On the green sheet you can see two rows of eight and two of seven, on the black sheet four rows of six bodies.

These are die-cut, well spaced and so the individual shapes are not distorted as the die-cutter squashes the foam. The bodies' pop out easily, fully cut. Upavon foam is tough stuff, so these tie in easily.

Suitable hook sizes seems to range from size 12 and up. Hook sizes depend on the hook an dressing, and what you prefer. Upavonflyfishing.com

Siliconised Poly Yarn

This poly yarn compared to the present pack of generic poly yard is slimmer and the fibers in the strands are finer, and less crinkly. The package does not compress the folds and they are coiled so there are no sharp bends from wrapping around a card. The strands are slightly

bonded so the a strand and when cut the strand a needle runs through the fibers to comb them and rids any bonding. You can use the bundle or split it to make a more delicate wing. It's very workable and the results are great.

LOWER OWENS – Flows are at **536.7cfs as of 8/31.**

The flows jumped from 300 CFS to 500 CFS in the span of 2 days, so no reports have been received.

The normal summer pattern is: Micro Caddis emergence starting around 6 AM, female Trico emergence around 7 AM, and the Trico spinner fall from 9-10 AM.

Remember that fish will eat the dead spinners for many hours after the fall stops. PMD hatches are occurring around 11 AM. Later in the summer, the tiny BWO 11 occurs mid-afternoon. Caddis emergence, male Trico emergence, and Caddis egg-laying occur in the evening.

ROCK CREEK LAKE – No Report - Stocked along with all the road side lakes for Labor Day weekend. Fishing has been good from the reports from friends and along the stream above the top parking lot. Still a few bugs looking for skin.

UPPER OWENS – CFS is **74 as of 8/31.** Water

Conditions: Something to be aware of - They are starting to put cows inside the fences. This is a normal occurrence, as grazing (historically done by Deer and Antelope) is an important part of the ecosystem. They move the cows every week or so, so it can affect water clarity and the amount of drifting weeds - Be on the lookout. The drifting slime weed problem is clearing up quickly, so fishing below the Hot Creek confluences has become more pleasant.

The hatches are more inconsistent - great one day and disappear the next. The only true change is they are now about an hour later and Craneflies and Aquatic Moths have returned. Craneflies appear midmorning and the moths appear early and late.

The crowds are growing and the dry fly action has slowed, but that doesn't mean you have to dredge the bottom either. Hopper-Droppers are working well with small #20-24 mayfly nymphs. The migratory Browns and stocked Rainbows are now spread throughout the public water. Caddis migration starts around 7am. The Trico emergence is less consistent and starting around 9 am. The tiny BWO is increasing, hatching midday thus the Hopper-Dropper rig. We are also seeing minnows and fry hanging out in the drowned grass on the inside of the river bends. Evenings are good for male Tricos, Caddis hatches, and Caddis egg-laying.

Dries: Spider Variant Trico #20-22, Parachute Caddis #16-22, Spent Partridge Caddis #16-22, Parachute Kicking Hopper #10-14 and assorted Foam Hoppers #8-12 for Hopper Dropper Rigs. **Nymphs:** Tungsten Psycho May PMD #14-16, Drowned Trico Spinner #18-22, Bead Head Flashback Pheasant Tail #14-22, Guides Choice #14-18, Translucent Pupa Olive or Tan #16-18,

Chamois Caddis #16-20, Spring Creek Hopper #12-16, San Juan Worm, M/Pardi F/B Olive #18-20 and Weiss BP Light #18-20. **Streamers:** Keslars H/B/G Olive, Punk Perch #16 and Crostons MRS Natural #12.

CROWLEY LAKE – Lake water level is 6772.3' 8/31

The lake level is dropping faster and the algae is still bad, but it's now clumping; hopefully the winds over the next couple of days will clear it out.

Fish seem to be moving out into slightly deeper water at 8'-16' - This may just be the fish moving to escape the pressure. The fishing in McGee Bay has picked back up but there's still enough action elsewhere to keep the pressure dispersed. Any stream inlet has potential; it's just a matter of finding the fishable spots amongst the proliferation of weeds. If you're just looking for action, Hilton Bay has lots of smaller fish, but the fish in the Crooked Creek arm have disappeared. The algae is now "clumping" (dying off) so with any luck the wind over the next couple of days should get rid of it. The fish have gone back to being picky on what food they want to eat, so if the imitations you're using aren't working, don't be afraid to experiment; try midge, fry, Damsel, or Callibaetis until you find the right one.

Another point to consider; the deeper the water, the further you get from the weed beds and the more the fish will be keying in on midges. Conversely, the weed beds are the key to Callibaetis, Damsels, and the hiding place for the Perch fry. As for exploring, it's not just the stream mouths that bring in cooler water; springs will attract fish as well.

The Perch fry are becoming a much more dominant food source and unlike most of the other food sources (which are hatch-related) the perch are always available. If you're willing to put up with the wind, the perch bite seems to improve when the water gets rough. That said, the fish will still be changing food preferences throughout the day. If you're doing great on midges but it shuts down around 9:30, try switching to Callibaetis nymphs. Likewise, around noon be ready to switch to Damsel fry or perch fry imitations. The Balanced Perch patterns seem to be working the best if you're fishing under an indicator. **Dries:** Adult Damsel #12, Deer Hair Damsel Blue #14, Organza Callibaetis Spinner #16-18 BS and Callibaetis Para Nymph #16-20. **Nymphs:** Copper Tiger #S-L, Albino Baron #S-L, Double Bead Zebra #S-L, Poxyback Callibaetis #14-16, Rickerts Emerging Callibaetis, Ultra Damsel Olive #14-16, Hula Damsel Tan or Olive #16 and Monroe Leech. **Streamers:** Punk Perch Light #16, Balanced Punk Perch Light or Dark #14, Perfection Perch #8, Hornberg #8-10 and Balanced Birds Nest Olive & Natural #12-14.

HOT CREEK - Flow is **52.5 of 8/31**

Remember, these are the flows just below Highway 395 on Mammoth Creek. The Interpretive Site has been doing well but the crowds have followed. With the weed

beds being as thick as they can get, hopper-droppers can be a good choice. Luckily, the hopper fishing is picking up. Caddis is starting their migration around 6-7 am, while the female Trico emergence starts around 9 am. The Trico spinner fall starts around 11 am, and those Trico spinner patterns will work through midday.

Midday we're seeing the Tiny BWO #22-26. Late afternoons and evenings hold, male Trico hatches, Caddis egg-laying, and Caddis emergence. With the dropping of flows, bird predation is getting worse in shallower water, so expect the fish to move under the banks and weed beds.

Two Guide tips:

1) When casting, if you're looking at the weed beds, you will hit them, so look for the clear lanes.

2) Your drifts should be 4 seconds or less followed by a smooth but aggressive back cast - You will be amazed by the number of hookups you didn't even know were there.

DEVILS POSTPILE - The road is open on the weekends. Please keep in mind; the schedules are subject to change. This can depend on issues that come with the general nature of road construction work. A Forest Closure Order was enacted on May 22, 2024

CONVICT LAKE – No report, too much activity on the lake. But maybe try a Convict Lake Special (has a propeller) or a colored woolly bugger with a dropper away from the plastic toys.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN – Cast a line, catch a fish is the report from Rick's as of today 8/30. Lakes have been heavily stocked not only from DFW but by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

SAN JOAQUIN - Flow is 18.6cfs as of 8/28. Road is not open due to maintenance during the week but open on the weekends. Haven't seen any reports and keep asking around, and normally I'm down there about two to three times a month but the number of visitors in the Eastern Sierra has increased tremendously this summer making it difficult to sneak out and do my sampling.

LUNDY LAKE – No report. But has been stocked all summer with DFW and Two County Trophy program fish. Try Speedy Shiners, Red/Gold Buoyants, 1/4oz. gold Kastmasters or the Perch Kastmaster.

JUNE LOOP - All lakes are very full especially Grant lake, and not an inch of shoreline is visible. No Report. But assuming how DFW is stocking, it should be great and you will probably have to go deeper than normal due to the off and on heat over the last six weeks.

VIRGINIA LAKES – Are all fishing great and they were stocked twice this past week, and they are beautiful fish, Black Rock Hatchery is doing a bang-up job. Small dries with a nymph underneath and odds are good they

will catch something besides a cold. Dries were also working well with the above nymph, in fact try other dries, but that gets into changing flies often. Oh well, get a couple CF fly holders to slide the fly onto it then insert your tippet and slide the fly onto your tippet, done-deal and you're ready to cast.

TRUMBULL LAKE was stocked by DFW twice so far and BFEF added 2 donations. Lots of big fish coming out with mini "mallows", why? Well, it's an old time trick for that lake that has been used by many folks that have been around for 40 plus years.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – No Report.

EAST WALKER - is running at about 227cfs right now

There was a large fish kill ON August 23rd – There cause is unknown, **BUT DO NOT RECOMMEND FISHING THERE NOW. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT farther DOWNSTREAM WAS SPARED BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORTS.** The Fish kill was huge especially in the miracle mile. Look for reports on the DFW website or Ken's Sporting Goods.

Also, some food for thought, in the Fish and Wildlife Departments "infinite wisdom" they have decided to not make barbless hooks mandatory on the East Walker, this is absolutely going to be detrimental to the life of this amazing river in the future, if you care at all about the East Walker and its sustainability, please pinch your barbs, if everyone adheres to this practice it will help the East Walker River a world class fishery. Thanks for your consideration. Ken's Sporting Goods report.

HONEYWELL RANCH - With the cooler weather lately and the mowing program is back in full swing they're hoping to get some anglers out on the pond within the next couple weeks, we'll let you know when we get things back online. **Ken's Report.**

SCAIRINE RANCH - With the cooler weather lately and the mowing program back in full swing we're hoping to start getting some anglers out on the pond within the next couple weeks, we'll let you know when we get things back online. Contact Kern's Sporting Goods at 932-7707 in Bridgeport CA.

KIRMAN - No Report from Ken's but an angler said it had slowed due to the heat and the best time was early am when the water is cooler.

WEST WALKER - We've been getting some good reports from the West lately both from the Upper section near Pickle Meadows as well as the lower areas through the canyon along Highway 395. Bait anglers have had some success with salmon eggs and night crawlers, lure anglers have been using Blue Fox lures, Panther Martins and Roostertails. Fly anglers have been doing well with hoppers, ants, beetles, and assorted nymphs like copper

johns, pheasant tails, hare's ears and small stonefly patterns. Ken's report.

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2024-25 Regulations:

Please provide comments to these changes for any water you feel would be detrimental to the resource. They need your input in order to make informed decisions on all these waters.

Every person or agency recommending that regulations be added, amended, or repealed must submit a petition to the Commission at the site listed:

(<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Petition-for-Regulation-Change>) using this petition form. These current requests for changes will be heard in the June. You can contact their office to see when the next meeting will be held to submit regulation changes on time and whatever is on the books today can be changed. Also include your comments to Governor Newsom at: (<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>). Here is the Executive Director's contact information: Melissa Miller-Henson - fgc@fgc.ca.gov (916) 653-4899 or (916) 653-7229.

NOTE: You must fill out the form in its entirety and reference the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested (see page 2, item number 2) and without this they will disregard your petition.

Fly-Fishing Apps

onWATER.com App provides boundaries that are found on maps, but now they're on an app so you can explore your water with confidence.

It's Your Water...Explore It - Everything you need to plan your trip, explore your water and relive your experience. Plus we're constantly adding rivers and updating info. From your laptop to your phone it's like having a seasoned guide at your side.

Know Before You Go - Whether you're planning a fly fishing destination trip, just getting out for a day or exploring water on the app instead of working, all the things you need are right at your fingertips.

Detailed River Maps and Real Time Data - Locate access points, boat ramps, camping, parking, and know the distance between them, so you never miss a take-out or honey hole again. Plus current river flows and weather, everything you need to know is in this app. And you won't have to fold it up after you glance at it.

Public and Private Land Boundaries - Stream access laws and public land overlays help you plan where to fish and eliminate the worry that you may be on private property. onWater is for the angler that likes to fish a lot and not make waves.

Local Fishing Reports and Fly Shops - Connect with local fly shops that serve the area you're exploring. Get current fishing reports, hot flies, stream flows, weather

and more. It's your one-touch guide to all the local experts.

Catch and Relive - Snap a quick photo of your catch before releasing it, and add it to your trip log. Uploading the photo also captures the river, flow and weather. Then archive by trip, water, date or other categories. Add trip notes like the fly used, GPS coordinates and how much bigger your fish was compared to your fishing buddy's. \$3.99/mo. or \$39.99/yr.

"Fish Head Nervous Water "Apps, \$6.99 iPhone and Android

Not only the best app for steelhead rivers, but surf, and also helpful in most any trout-fishing situation around the country. It has a river directory with flows and where and when to find the best windows of action. It's handy when you're actually packing to go fishing; it's quick, organized with the most pertinent information available.

Orvis Fly Fishing Green Mountain - Digital, iPhone, Android is a grand-daddy of fly fishing apps that is free and packed with tons of general interest fly-fishing news, advice, discussion and entertainment you'll never be able to digest it all. It has Tom Rosenbauer's podcasts, casting videos for every stream, flats, or surf situation; knot -tying instruction, fishing reports, up -to-date news feeds, fly pattern descriptions and recommendations with built-in links so you can buy flies you're interested in. It's sort of geared toward beginners, but its solid information and we could all use a little tune-up now and again. Loren Elliott

The Pocket Fisherman by Magic Mobile

This app will help you find out more about the specific species of fish, as well as regulations and records of 49 Continental states regarding fishing in their deep waters. The app also comes with a GPS map that tracks the nearest tackle shops and marinas. You can easily identify the fish by either searching for its name or looking at the gallery of fish images. It's the most comprehensive fisherman app so far as it comes with a summary of each type of fish, description, appearance, weight, natural habitat, and its average length.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - New Reservation

A reservation is required to drive into Yosemite National Park from 5 am to 4 pm from August 17--Oct. 27; weekends & holidays only. More at -

(<https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/reservations.htm>) Reservations can be made online at [recreation.gov/timed-entry/10086745](https://www.recreation.gov/timed-entry/10086745) and will be available until none remain. Afternoon arrivals and additional full day reservations will be added one week in advance of each reservation date. Make sure to check the site to see if it's still required as my staff have gone into the park without anyone stopping them.

CalTrans Highway work along US 395 – Check the District 9 CalTrans web-site for current status. There is a list of work that will be ongoing this summer. Here is the contact go-to link for more updated information.

D9PublicInfo@dot.ca.gov.

Mono County:

Monday through Wednesday, and 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday. Drivers may encounter 20-minute delays. Conway Ranch Shoulders Project – On U.S. 395 between State Route, currently they are not working and crew and equipment are gone, but there is still more to be done on the east side of the highway but have not heard when they will restart.

Sonora Junction Shoulder Widening Project

The Sonora Junction Shoulder Widening Project proposes to widen the existing paved shoulders by 8 feet on U.S. 395 in Mono County from Burcham Flat Road to the south side of the junction with State Route 108. Expected to require approximately 160 working days to complete, the project is scheduled to occur Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be one-way traffic control and drivers may experience 20-minute delays. Work is anticipated to conclude in fall 2025 after a winter suspension.

Travelers are advised that there will be two full closures of U.S 395 one starting September 4th to the 19th. You can also call the Road Condition Hotline at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623).

TIDBIT'S - Meteor Shower Calendar 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(no. per/hour)</u>	<u>Direction</u>
Oct. 9	Draconid	6	NW
Oct. 21-22	Orionid	15	S
Nov. 9	Taurid	3	S

Predawn means between midnight and an hour before morning (twilight). BOLD - Most prominent

*Strong moonlight will interfere with these showers.

Dates will vary slightly.

See you on the water CJ! (8/24)