

EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb

Fishing Tip:

You can never know enough about trout. The most valuable device in a trout angler's arsenal is a well-stocked library. How many books are enough? Well, how much space do you have and will your significant other give you the space. You have a garage, and you can certainly set up some extra shelves in that area above the window, especially since it has a 4x12 header to hold a hefty shelf. Techniques, tactics, the latest in lines, tippets, DVD's, and of course flies will feed that curious mind of the unanswered why's in your ability to catch when no one else is.

Read about trout whenever you can.

Someone said a few years ago that in his "slide rule" for every hour you spend reading about trout you will catch an average of 18.62 more trout per season, and your average trout will weigh 3.91 ounces more. Of course this can't be justified until you put your reading into practice. Just admit you aren't perfect and you are at least one step ahead of the other anglers.

Weather:

Afternoon thunderstorms have improved fishing, if that is possible, as the heat of 62 degree water has driven the trout deep in search of more comfortable water. Temps at Virginia Lakes have reached 85 degrees and giving relief to anglers seeking less than the 100 degrees down in the flats.

News:

Mono County Board of Supervisors, Mono County Fisheries Commission, Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes through their combined efforts will enhance fishing with Brown Trout for this 2006 season. The first 4 lakes to receive them were Upper and Lower Twin Lakes, Bridgeport Reservoir, and Little Virginia Lake. There will be 4 deliveries with 4 drops each through the 1st of September. American Trout and Salmon out of Susanville is the "proud Dad" of these beauties. Flies of choice have been the Virginia Lakes Special, and the black/olive woolly buggers.

Legislation:

Although AB7, legislation to maintain and enhance the state hatchery system, was signed by the Governor, there seems to be some dilemma as to how this will be implemented. There have been several meetings with top DFG staff, but nothing

has been confirmed as to how the monies will be put back into the Hatchery Inland Fishing Fund (HIFF). I'll have more news next week and will report it as it happens.

Fishing Report:

ROCK CREEK has been doing well on leeches, woolly buggers in black, dark brown with dries hitting early and late. The mosquitoes are worse than I've seen in about 4 years, and you better check your mailbox for your dividend payments as my stock in "DEET" was quadrupled.

CROWLEY LAKE has had some algae and grass problems but it's reported that it's improving daily. Water level and clarity is good and damsel nymphs and mayfly emergers have been consistent.

UPPER OWENS has been reported as being fair to good from the lake up depending on the time of day and water conditions. Weeds will make it harder but the Caddis activity is strong. Black Elk hair Caddis took some nice ones, but saw some grass snakes, yuk!

HOT CREEK has been breezy with a great caddis hatch late in the afternoon. Mayfly, and midge patterns early and late for best results.

CONVICT tubers have been dragging buggers, leeches, and spruce flies and some damsel's around the southwest section of the lake near the inlet.

MAMMOTH BASIN has not been red-hot, but tugging a streamer behind your tube will get some nice fish. Some damsels are working, and the weed beds are not as bad as 2005. Try your usual Mammoth patterns and you'll do well. A 10lb brown came out of Sotcher on a Rapala. SAN JOAQUIN RIVER has been very high and not wader friendly, so fish slow water near the campground with dry/dropper rig, bead head nymphs, stimulators, Adams, Caddis, crystal zebras or tiger midges #16-18. DEET, DEET and more DEET or you'll be the menu. JUNE LOOP ~ No report.

LUNDY has had a great caddis hatch in the ponds behind the resort, and rainbow Hornbergs, and the "Marvel" have been taking some nice Alpers and DFG Brood stock.

VIRGINIA LAKES was fortunate to be one of the 4 lakes to get browns from American Trout and Salmon on the 16th, and have been taken on olive woolly buggers. Other patterns working are streamers in olive/black, light and bright, VL special Matuka, small Ricards emergers and black elk hair caddis have worked well. Of course the mosquito patterns, and Griffith Gnats have also done well.

EAST WALKER is at 440cfs and been tough with the thunder and lightning, but if you have to, try some micro mayflies, emergers, caddis emergers, San Juan worms, and the miracle.

WEST WALKER ~ Forget it, and tie up some flies for the other waters. See you on the water! CJ