

## EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb

### *Fishing Tip:*

Beginning fishers often purchase the “boat”, when trying to equip their fly boxes, only to find that they have way too much of what they will never use. Getting advice at your destination fly shop might be good, but are they trying to be helpful or just sell flies. I always ask “newbies” to let me see their flies and try and get them to use and try everything. Learning about flies is a process we all go through especially if you have got the “bug” for fly-fishing. Narrowing down your first selection can be a tough compromise, so if you stay with 3 nymphs, 3 streamers, and 3 dries, 3 terrestrials, then you can expand from there, into size and color range. Of course this is not the “law”, but it will save you money for the other great gizmos and gadgets you will eventually end up buying. Next month I’ll give you my selection for each category.

### *Legislation:*

Funding from increased license sales were released through AB7 legislation that was signed by the Governor to maintain and enhance the state hatchery system, and wardens are scheduled to get a 25% pay hike over next 5 years, along with 175 new positions in Fish and Game to continue conservation and restoration work. See Cal Fly Fisher article.

### *Fishy News:*

Susanville Browns have started to show, but unfortunately fly fishers aren’t the ones doing the catching. Can anyone tie a fly resembling a stick of dynamite with a tail?

### *Weather:*

Mother Nature looked around last week and noticed that the Eastern Sierra had enjoyed TOO MUCH warm weather past the time allotted in “her” schedule, so we were dealt 48 hours of the most brutal wind she could whip up. The temps fell to record lows in some areas driving the fish deep. Water temp is currently 54 degrees on Little Virginia, and cooler toward the bottom. The Aspens got burnt and started their annual color change and should peak around Oct. 2nd. Remember to come prepared for weather this time of year, and don’t be fooled by the warm days, as the evenings are cool. Come for fall fishing and don’t forget the camera, as you can email me and I’ll send you my list of the flaming hot aspen areas. vlr@qnet.com

### *Fishing Report:*

ROCK CREEK has been doing great on beadhead wooly buggers in black and dark brown #12 or Doc’s Twin Lakes Special (DTLS), damselfly, and Hornbergs with standard dries hitting early and late. For some nice dry action in the Mosquito Flats area try using a #18 Griffith’s Gnat. There’s still a big brown (22”) waiting for my dry in Marsh Lake. I think I need to visit it once again as I hate the smell of skunk. CROWLEY – Cold nights with wind cleaned up the algae and the fishing is much better. Try a Perch fry, Matuka, or a Hornberg and strip slow for the best bite. Some midges are working, crystal, zebra, and tiger even a Z-wing. UPPER OWENS flow is around 88cfs and is doing well below the bridge towards the lake and try the hopper/dropper or nymphs. Use Tricos in the am and Caddis in the early evening. San Juan worms, Copper midges, and a wet Western

Coachman (hard to find), so you better make friends with someone that ties them up. They are really easy to tie. HOT CREEK is very good and there’s been a great am caddis hatch through early afternoon. Tie on an #18 light green caddis pupa, or serendipity under a #16 parachute caddis or a #18 yellow humpy. Evenings will vary with temperature changes for the dry over a scud or midge.

CONVICT tubers are still tugging buggers, leeches, damselfly and spruce flies around the southwest section of the lake near the inlet and about 50 feet away from the outlet, so try some purple, white and olive wooly buggers with a prince nymph dropper, it will put you into the bleachers.

MAMMOTH BASIN – Twin and Mamie are doing great on brown and olive Docs Twin Lake Special (DTLS), Olive Matuka, or a leech pattern with a nymph dropper #16 or #18. SAN JOAQUIN RIVER has been good on dry/dropper using standard dries that imitate hoppers or a parachute caddis patterns with and hares ear, pheasant tail or serendipity at the drop.

JUNE LOOP ~ Gull has been great on brown DTLS, and Pheasant Tail dropper, and June has done well on burgundy or olive leech patterns, the “staple” Hornberg with a hare’s ear dropper.

LUNDY has produced some great action over the past several weeks on olive and black wooly buggers, dark rust and dark brown. Hornbergs have also got a lot of action so bring plenty as they get lashed and die after 5 fish. Who ties these so poorly!

VIRGINIA LAKES has seen the some great action on black ants, and just about any ant pattern will work so bring your arsenal of ‘em and see if you can do a Grand Slam minus the golden. Also working well are tentwing caddis #16, Griffith’s Gnat #18, Grey Hackle Peacock #14-16 and a #16 soft hackle march brown. But the best has been a black beadhead wooly bugger tied with grizzly hackle, it’s dynamite.

EAST WALKER is at 165cfs, and has seen some double digit browns on free lining a secret fly and I saw the pictures, 9lb and a 10lb, he’s a dirt bag for keeping them, but they eat their weight often, as I’m sure they have been munching down the fingerlings that were stocked a couple weeks ago. Water temp is mid to low 50’s, and mayfly nymphs, LaFontaine pupa, Fox Poopah, Micro mayflies, s and some streamers have been working well. For the dry use a yellow Stimulator, yellow humpy, or yellow hopper, and a Prince, PT, chamois, Z-wing or swimming caddis for the drop. Flows have been inconsistent, and it goes out according to water needed down the line for irrigation and cattle.

WEST WALKER flow is down to 80cfs but looked a bit higher yesterday when I went down to the flats. Small hoppers in tan and cream, and I used a little bleach to soften them, but of course they fell apart as I hit the thread by mistake. Q-tips work the best but since I didn’t have any I tried a piece of tissue. The flats were ok, and I saw one of the Susan browns rise to check out my hopper, and snubbed it, and got a nice bow instead. Droppers work well here but I prefer to rough it with a single dry. It was better toward the town of Walker.

Credit goes to Michelle and Eric Gehrung not Jeff Wenger for raising the brown trout at Paradise Shores.

See you on the water! CJ