

# Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

## **Fishing tip:**

September has the best terrestrials and midge hatches, and both items are at the top of the trout menu. Midges are usually in two places, the on top and in the film. There are several ways they can be fished either as an emerger, a cripple emerging from its pupal shuck, or stuck in their shucks on the surface. Coloration of the shuck and its integrity is much different than say a mayfly. The thorax and abdomen run in the gray to olive-gray shades and are very visible but also can range from dirty yellow to amber. Matching the color of the shuck will improve your success. If you spend any time observing hatching midges you will see the trailing shuck. Although I use a lot of midge patterns I've found that the Griffith's Gnat or any similar tie can be deadly, with and without a "shuck", but I prefer tails tied in a downward position and kind of kinky as in organza, a type of shiny synthetic. Mallard Flank, wood-duck flank or some hackle barbs will also give the midge a good attitude on the surface. You can also use mammal fur/hair with the guard hairs removed as these are more natural fiber and act erratic which will entice trout.

## **Legislation**

*Dave Cogdill's AB7, now SB1262 has taken on change, that will give DFG some latitude in hatchery production and restoration of naturally indigenous trout. Meetings were scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to get public input as to what they want from the Department of Fish and Game and this information will not be available until they are done with their scoping process. I'm very anxious to see the report.*

*The Departments budget with regard to stocking, mud snails and logistics has not changed.*

**NEWS:** *East Walker River oil spill of 2000 of approximately 3600 gallons of #6 fuel oil that impacted 15 miles of the River reached a settlement in 2004 and the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the AFFS East Walker River Oil spill was released in August 2008 and is now available. The plan includes additional restoration projects that are being considered for future planning, and outlines the proposed restoration alternatives that are being considered as compensation for injuries to natural resources caused by the accidental release of the fuel oil. September 15<sup>th</sup> ended the 45 day comment period, and if you would like to read more, go to [wriver\\_oilspill@fws.gov](mailto:wriver_oilspill@fws.gov).*

**ROCK CREEK AREA and Mosquito Flats** are doing fair. Small dries are working in the upper basin, and streamers and nymphs along with caddis patterns, in the lake. Also the Rock Creek Lake Special (small tailless blue-gray midge) is doing well in the lake.

**UPPER OWENS** – has been great with a variety of nymphs getting the most action, and dries late afternoon. Two fly rig is the only way to get into browns, so use Micro midges, hare's ear, prince nymphs, and tiger and zebra midges. Stream fishing is the great, but I still prefer 6X to 3X. It's just not fair. Please remember to wash your equipment as mud snails are everywhere and not going away.

**HOT CREEK** – water is at 50cfs and the weeds are up, but still having one of its best years and the trout are demanding your best ability to drift. Flies that have been working in the morning and mid-day are Brown parachute caddis, CDC emergers, tan hopper patterns, large black ant patterns (my square head foam is good). Check the water's edge and flip some rocks and get into those patterns. Please remember to stay out of the water as this is a fragile area and the mud snails are still abundant.

**CROWLEY** water temperature is normal around 55-58 degrees, and fishing is still slow as reported by Kent Rianda of the Trout Fly, and

he suggests gray/black bead head #16 Optimidge, Try stripping just over the weeds, and stay in the weed seam and use a intermediate line and strip slow near the bottom.

**UPPER OWENS** is between 50 to 60cfs and color is a bit off but there are a lot of fish so try dry to dry-dropper to nymphing with or without an indicator to streamer fishing. Nymphing and streamers will produce the most but get you fly down to the fish. Midges, trico's and caddis are the mainstay, but Streamers have also been doing well so stay on the small side. Fish are taking everything with a delicate touch so be extra alert.

**MAMMOTH BASIN** - Good action found in the basin with water temp running around 60 but cooler as you go down. Try tugging bugger or minnow patterns with a full sink or sink tip and drop a midge or grey scud deep or along the weed edges using a nymph or small midge. Early and late try some dries, the action has been good with parachute Adams, or small bead head callibaetis Dry or a black Doc's Twin Lakes Special, Griffith's gnats, midglings, and small baetis #18-22.

**SAN JOAQUIN** is low, clear and cool but and you will have to walk the area for the pools and turnouts, holes and the banks under overhanging brush and tree limbs where fish are holding. Try some large dries like humpies, #18 Stimulators, and Cahill Light.

**RUSH CREEK** flow is down but the water is cool and clear, stealth is what you will need with this tricky area. You'll have to walk a bit to get into fish as they are moving toward the lake. Typical small stream flies sizes 16 to 18, and use your best technique. The creek will be longer due to low water so fish toward the inlet of Grant.

**JUNE LAKE** is getting their infusion of Cutthroats and doing well with standard streamers in dark patterns near weedy areas of the lake, and at the west end and on the northeast shore just west of the "beach". Watch for feeding trout early evening and tug Woolly Buggers, Doc's Twin Lake Special in Black or Olive and brown Leeches are all doing well. The rest of the loop is also fishing well with the exception of Grant.

**GULL LAKE** is fishing fair to good but check with Gull Lake marina for the latest stocking and try the Denny Richards Seal buggers in orange and green.

**SILVER LAKE** - Most of the fish coming out are being taken near the Rush Creek inlet area. Also try midges near the inlet and outlet; #18 black Zebra under an indicator at about 2 feet under all the way to ten feet down depending on where the fish are holding. Leech patterns in rust, brown and black.

**VIRGINIA LAKES** action had been good late evening with small dries. That brown has my number, and he's giving me indigestion. The plant numbers holding regardless of the distance of the hatchery where the fish are raised. Flies that have been working are Black Elk hair Caddis, large Black Ant, Doc's Twin Lake Special in olive, and the number one fly is the Grey Hackle Yellow. Some emergers have been working and also Bird's Nest, flashback hare's ear, and flashback prince (disco). Last couple nights the Adams in did exceptional on 6x fluorocarbon tippet. Rickards orange/green Stillwater nymphs are doing well all over the lake and producing some good fish days. The record is held by Dave Breiter with a 71 fish day and his lovely wife Barbara with 54 fish.

**EAST WALKER** flow is at 70 cfs and has finally cooled. Night temps have been running in the high 20's to low 30's but day time temps are still high so use your best judgment for the health and safety of the trout. Try Zebra, tiger and blood midges sizes #14 to 20, swimming caddis, pupa and larvae as well in sizes #16 to 20. Afternoon into evening use rubber legged stimulators, Madam X, Elk hair caddis #14 to #20. Evenings go to mouse patterns and large streamers with hair and/or long tails.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** is warm on top and cooler down low, and the fish are active in the middle of the lake. Good lake for Fall brown trout if you have the time and patience and use a Type 3-4 full sink with double bunnies, bunny leaches and crayfish imitations. Anything and everything big will work best.

**WEST WALKER** – 27 cfs      *See you on the water! CJ 9.8*