

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Midges are everywhere and in astounding numbers in different water types. When trout are focused on midges in their pupal form, they can be an important part of a trout's diet. Their life cycle is egg, larva, pupa, adult, spinner but only in still water are the larvae important and then only at dusk and a little before. In flowing and still water the pupae are the most vulnerable stage as they hang suspended in the meniscus and struggle to emerge which attracts the trout.

One of the best patterns for midges is the Griffith's Gnat, which is debatable as to what it imitates, a cluster of adults on the water or an emerger, but hard to determine because the fly will catch a lot of fish when midges are the main menu

The best presentation is to cast up and across stream (on still water near in and out flows) and when it settles give it a gentle tug to straight out the leader and this will pull the fly down under the surface where the natural resides. You can add a bit of paste floatant just above the fly to keep it near the surface.

Oh, did I mention to use a 6 or 7X, this is a good idea and a lot of fun.

Weather Conditions

Typical Eastern Sierra low-pressure system moved into the area dropping the temperatures slightly with several days of fairly breezy conditions but was short lived and now it looks like a great summer at high elevation lakes is nearing. All rivers are running high and off color, and there is still snow above 9500', so come prepared for everything.

Legislation – No news

Law suit – Update will be announced within 30 days after all waters have been cleared for Southwestern Flycatcher habitat.

New Zealand Mud Snail is still illegal but not at the top of the news chain and believe it is imperative that fishers help prevent the spread by NOT WADING.

LOWER OWENS ~ River is running high and the drifting hasn't been sensational, but fishers are doing well in the wild trout section with caddis as a top and scud as a bottom or try an #18 crystal midge, Tiger midge, or WD40 in black.

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are still taking black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and large streamers. Mosquito Flats is running very high with difficult stream fishing, and the ski-parka mosquitoes are gearing up for some great meals. Road is not clear all the way up to the trailhead at Mosquito flat road,

CROWLEY LAKE has had a lot of windy days and the water temps are moving the fish around and up and down, and don't forget the two fly rig is always a good choice. Fish are now holding in 12 to 15' range since the water has warmed up so rig for depth charge and get ready to hook into some 20+ inchers. DFG stocked a load of 10" bows at the Fish Camp north area and they should be providing the hawks with a tasty meal or two.

UPPER OWENS reports great days on dries so try some caddis patterns. Early Nymphing goes right into dries, heavenly times ahead. Thanks Ann-Marie.

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and dark brown #6 or 8. Also the Marvel is truly a wonder fly for this lake, be sure and ask at the store the color of the day. Some standard midges for top water near the south bank where

the bugs hang. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head with a slender body.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN - Lake Mary has been producing on some small dries. George and Mamie are also doing well on dries, but try some Matukas, black leaches, and black or chocolate woolly buggers. Water temperature is rising and floating is comfortable.

HOT CREEK is fishing well early and late on dries, scuds, WD40's, stones and SJ worms. Constant afternoon breezes so be ready to change up when conditions change

SAN JOAQUIN – Access road opened the 24th and they are getting the campgrounds ready. Water is high and a bit off color, try large dries and anything will work, big bright fluffies with small beadhead dropper. Loads of fish from the pack station north. Get in early so you can drive your car and not take the shuttle.

JUNE LOOP – Gull have been doing the best on black, and olive woolies, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Also try some stones, mayflies and caddis near Rush Creek for best results when water is high. Also, near the bridge on the access road to Mono Lake.

LUNDY LAKE beaver ponds have been great with small dries early and late with a slight breeze on the water. Full run off is on and the falls are sensational, don't go into Saddlebag via this route too much ice and snow on the switchback section of the trail and it has not been maintained for more than 15 years. Water is very high and there's a \$600 reel in the lake with a sweet rod attached if anyone can scuba? Flies doing well are olive crystal flash buggers, olive leeches, grey ghosts, and my Carey bugger (peacock body version).

VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot ticket for tubers and waders using red throat black Matukas, with lots of body flash. Scuds have been very active along with midges by the magna-thousands. The bugs have arrived in droves from gnats to mosquitoes so bring extra spray. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-20. Some emergers have worked over the past week, but this will increase with the temps. Of course dragging a streamer always works. Multi borrrrrring!

EAST WALKER – Flow currently is at 224cfs (cubic foot per second) and the mosquitoes are vicious. Before leaving home, place your blood with your Doc and you will need it when you return and maybe even some grizzly bear urine might defray the onslaught, I've got extra head nets they are really cool. Emerging Caddis will put you into poundage. Early and late as usual and the flow has been holding for some time so don't miss this opportunity to try those 2 fly rigs with midges. It is getting hammered like a ten-penny nail.

WEST WALKER – Water is at 1320cfs, so look for flat water and fish the bottom, and use a two fly rig with large attractor as indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly. This is standard for most of the summer until the terrestrials arrive which might be very soon.

SADDLEBAG is still closed and scheduled to open July 4th weekend.

See you on the water! CJ (10 6)