

# Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

## Fishing tip:

*Locating trout on most lakes can be easy once you understand what drives a trout to feed. Once you know that trout will hide in fear and cannot feed at the same time and is not capable of doing two unrelated things at once. Trout are totally aware of their surroundings all the time and will not expose themselves to danger and this is why you should always "rest" a fish you are trying to catch. The other two elements that determine when trout are most active is when they are comfortable; one is cooler water (temperature) and that happens early am and after the sun has "hit the road". The second is the oxygen level or dissolved oxygen level (dO2) which is measured in parts per million (ppm). Trout require dO2 of 3ppm to survive. "When surface water reaches a temperature of 75 degrees f 3ppm is the maximum dO2 the water can hold without some form of turbulence to enhance gas exchange (oxygenation). At water temperatures above 75 f with no oxygenation of the water the trout will suffocate." Water temp also controls the trout's metabolism (M) as to when it will feed. It works this way, 32 f to 44 f trout M is slowed to and requires very little food, at 50 f to 55 f their activity increases and they actively feed for longer periods and still have good dO2. When the temp reaches 55 f to 64 f you have the best possible conditions and their M is in high gear and they are constantly feeding. This also triggers the food source which becomes prolific and abundant, and all that is needed is the right presentation and "bingo".*

*Be safe if you walk in and around desert brush, and watch for rattlesnakes as they will be headed for moisture so be wary.*

## News:

### Weather:

Mother Nature just can't seem to shake the blues bringing more wind, rain and light snow to the Eastern Sierra high country throughout most of May. From year to year, it's a constant surprise as to the number of windy days, warm days and downright cold days May can produce. The good thing is the moisture was gratefully received covering the peaks and increased flows all over. June is supposed to provide some record breaking heat which will also produce some great hatches and more action for the dry fly addict.

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water concerning limits, size, and other restrictions. *Note: Always check with local tackle stores for the waters you plan to fish, and I'm not on commission to them for this suggestion, it's just good sense not to waste your time and "put-down" trout.*

**ROCK CREEK** has had a tremendous month of fishing as the lake opened up early and anglers had a shot at some really ravenous trout. Dragging dark olive streamers

**CONVICT** is always beautiful and I saw some nice fish under the bridge the week before opener, finning and enjoying their short freedom. Again, the main trail is clear for almost 2 miles and they had a great opener. Try some streamers with rubber legs and don't overcast, just enough to drift by their nose, also green or brown marvel Fly's (also known as a Pistol Pete), and Green Woolly Buggers. Fish the inlet and outlets and keep your line tight for better control should a hawk nudge your offering. Also, their Hangman's Cash bonus weekend is June 7-9 with \$2000 in cash prizes.

**HOT CREEK** flume is at 68cfs and water is very clear, flows are not really high, but producing great. It's a stealth approach to get into some poundage and knowing how to throw a good drift. Bring small midges and mayflies for the mornings and as the temp rises dig out the caddis while they're still hatching.

*Please stay out of the water and help prevent the spread of the New Zealand Mud Snail.*

**CROWLEY** water temp is 52-56 on the bottom with great clarity. Get there early as the bite is good when it's this warm. The lake is much lower than previous years so watch out for Pelican Point which sticks out way into the lake. Watch for buoys and past to the east. Fishing has been excellent with some windy days and you might be able to pick up some big bows, Cutthroats and chubby browns. Stick to about 10-14 feet of water along Pelican Point, Leighton and Six Bays which have all been from hot to cold. Use red very early, then switch it up to olive, gray/black and black after 10am and don't forget the Olive Optimidge #16-18, Albino Baron early, copper tiger and copper zebras. There's a great gal at the store who will put you onto the daily double.

**MAMMOTH BASIN** is fully open and all lakes are thawed. Early morning and late evening is always better for dries, tugging streamers and nymphing is still the better way. Lots of wind prior to the holiday and it's beautiful right now with only a slight breeze. Dries: #18 Royal Wulff, Sierra Bright dot #16-20, #18 Renegade, Callibaetis, and yellow stimulators #16-18. Nymphs: #20 CDC midge emerger, Stalcup midge emerger #18-20, #20 prince, #16-20 rainbow warrior (my favorite), San Juan worms, hares ear, PT's, birds nest and Janssen Callibaetis emerger. Tug some Doc Twin Lake specials, crystal bugger, and Rickard's AP emerger.

**SAN JOAQUIN** was supposed to open last weekend, so I'd dig out those super fluffy dries and get camouflaged with bushes and tie on stimulators, #14-16, Royal Wulff, or Adams. Record high temps are due to hit the Sierra shortly so think about some hopper/dropper in deeper areas.

**JUNE LAKE** has been seeing a lot of action at the west end of the lake toward the north corner away from the marina. Two fly rigs produced some action, but change-up was the norm due to the erratic weather patterns. Olive anything BH was working, then dark brown and even some purple woolly's weighted. Crystal buggers, olive Loeberg's and a few light Hornberg's saw some action. Check June Lake Marina or Ernie's for the best fly selection before hitting the lake.

**GULL LAKE** is fishing best on the west end near the reeds in a searching pattern as if you were on a stream. Select an area and dissect it so you don't over-fish each pattern. Try some damsel's (I know it's early, but it's also very warm right now) or even some hoppers as they are getting very energetic.

**SILVER LAKE** has been producing some nice fish during cloud cover and a slight breeze so try stripping hand-over near the south side of the lake toward the grassy area with olive BH buggers, Loeberg's, Matuka's or Spruceabout's.

**GRANT LAKE** is on the low side so try the south shore or the inlet for fish cruising for itty-bitty fish. Check with Ernie's or the Grant Lake Marina for specifics.

**LUNDY** water is down and the ponds in the back are full thanks to the beavers holding their homes in check. Bugs are bouncing off the bushes around the first set of ponds, but not much action up canyon where the beavers maintaining the water level to sustain their existence.

**VIRGINIA LAKES** seems to be in a slump at the moment due to the pressure it got over the holiday. DFW stocked prior to with a two-week load hoping to take the pressure of their aging fleet. The holiday produced a lot of limits on just about everything except for flies, unless you knew exactly what they were taking sub-surface. Olive BH woolly buggers with a shorter tail as they seemed to be mouthing the fly and missing the hook so I suggested trimming the tail by pinching some length off with your nails and not clippers. I didn't get a chance to fish it but did a lot of watching with the binoculars to see how all 27 floaters were doing most of the weekend.

The largest fish taken for the month was a 5lb 2oz Rainbow out of Big Virginia on yellow-fly (power bait) by a first time angler and her very first fish.

**TRUMBLE LAKE** will be stocked for the first time this season on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, but it has been a lot of fun for brookies on lures and small flies.

**EAST WALKER** flow is at 68cfs and dropping since the 27th, and changing every few days with the overnight temperature change and it's been hot and cold so be patient and check the flows as the fish are on the bottom and use loads of weight. Try small midges and nymphs in #16-18; streamers, leeches, buggers and the illusive Sheep Creek Special which I use on Little Virginia. Dries working are all in the size 18 range so run the gamut with Adams, stimulators, gnats, small hoppers and even ants. Kitty found a carpenter ant on the rug and followed it into the office totally intrigued as she knows the difference between a stink bug and a BIG BLACK ANT.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** is fairly low and most of the trout are congregated in deeper water and in the tub" area. Anglers are using leech patterns and midges like rojo midges, zebra midges and ice cream cones (maybe its spumoni or just vanilla) but it's a new one on me.

**WEST WALKER** flow is 562cfs and run-off should taper toward early July or sooner depending on the temps. "Fishable" will be in everyone's vocabulary and the trophy's should start to arrive. Watch the Northern Mono Chamber for their derby's as they will stock Alpers and it should be great fun! Fish the first north curve just past the bridge, but be sure and watch for snakes, it will be a dry year for the high country and they will be seeking cooler areas.

See you on the water, CJ

(13.5)