

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tips for this month:

Here are several tips that should prove useful on your next fishing trip.

Bend down the barbs on flies. This saves wear and tear on fish and if you hook yourself accidentally, it will save you money and pain, and you won't have to be concerned about barbless regulations.

If you didn't clean your fly line this past winter to "ready-up" for trout season jot this on your "to-do" list for March 2014 it will improve your distance and make casting easier.

Always wear eyeglasses and a hat for safety when casting a fly rod whether beginner or expert, unless you're Lefty, don't over-estimate your ability.

When stripping your very pricey sinking line make sure to keep it in your "apron" rather than have it sink and possibly take you down with it.

An easier way to set the hook on sinking line is to tie on a large Woolly Bugger and a couple of droppers then release about 30-35 feet of line and give it all time to sink and make the line taut by backing up to remove the slack. Then drop the rod tip into the water and get comfortable and carefully paddle with your fins. You will feel a strike or see the line tighten then lifting the rods tip straight up out of the water a few feet setting the hook.

When, not if, you get a tangle in your leader using multiple flies, it's just a heck of a lot faster to remove the flies and then untangle it.

Remember to be wary in and around desert brush and watch for rattlesnakes as they will be headed for moisture.

News:

The annual Kids Festival was held this weekend in Mammoth Lakes and some of the Fly Shop guides offered their services to teach children fishing and proper catch and release methods. It was a huge success.

USFWS Extended Public Comment Period on Yellow Legged Frog - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has extended the public comment period until November 18, 2013 on the Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog and the northern distinct population segment of the Mountain Yellow Legged Frog as well as the Yosemite Toad. Comments may be submitted on-line at the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!home> The Docket Number for the proposed listing rule is FWS-R8-ES-2012-0100 and for the proposed critical habitat rule is FWS-R8-ES-2012-0074.

Comments can also be sent by U.S. mail to:

Public Comments Processing

Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2012-0100 or FWS-R8-ES-2012-0074

Division of Policy and Directives Management

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Additional information may be accessed at

<http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/outreach/2013/07-18/docs/QA-Sierra%20Amphibians%20reopen%20PC%20pLpCH-2013jul17%20FINAL.pdf>

Weather:

July's weather has been a mix from very hot and occasional wind to the low 80's bringing in thunderstorms with a good amount of moisture. July did provide some record breaking heat which did produce some great hatches and consistent action for the dry fly addict. Visibility has been down for approximately 5 days since the start of the fire near the Mammoth Pool just behind Huntington lake on the west side.

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 Lake has finally fallen into shape fishing-wise for the summer, and the catching has greatly improved. The resort purchased a load of Alpers and the County will also be planting their usual end of the month Enhancement Program. Flies working are black and grey dry patterns in the evening (mosquitoes, Adams, black gnat, Rock Creek Specials), and if you need a lesson in Tenkara go see Jim King, he says it's "pretty" fun.

CONVICT – Same as last report with streamers still doing great but switch up with olive Doc's Twin Lakes special, Spruceabou, green or brown Marvel Fly's (also known as a Pistol Pete), and Green Woolly Buggers, and try some standard dries around the southwest shore early and late.

HOT CREEK flume is at 41cfs and water is clear but weedy but doing nicely. 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. With recent thunderstorms the water is a light shade of brown so use shiny flies. For nymphs try rubber leg copper Johns, wd40, buckskin, Fox's Poopah, nitro caddis, sparkle pupa, juju Baetis, rainbow warrior, and lightning warrior.

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

CROWLEY water temp is 65 on the bottom with some algae. 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 white buoys and past to the east. Also, the islands just north are popping out so watch carefully if there is a good chop it covers the buoys. Fishing has been good to excellent with some good hatches. Lots of fish are holding in McGee Bay in about 8-12 feet of water and a mix of trout up to 16" with an occasional surprise mid-morning. Try bright red larvae patterns before 9am, gray/black BH Optimidge with Green Flashback after the sun gets high and also red/black Optimidge or Mickey's Copper tiger. Don't forget to strip the small perfection Perch. Don't pass up a chat with Amy at the store she will put you onto the hot ticket.

MAMMOTH BASIN is a bit low and fishing conditions are good. Great dry fly fishing with the DFW rainbows near the shore early am and late evenings. Tugging streamers and nymphing is best during mid day with a full sink or a Rio Versi-tip leader. Weather cleared and there has been a slight breeze. Dries: Parachute Adams, royal wulffs, stimulators, callibaetis, humpy, Griffiths gnat, skittering midge and Sierra brite dot. Nymphs: rainbow warrior, glo bug, copper johns, birds nest, hares ear, AP emerger in olive, pheasant tail wd40 and San Juans. Streamers: crystal bugger, punk perch, Doc's Twin Lake specials, Hornbergs, and belly ache minnows.

SAN JOAQUIN is the dry fly addict's "eden" so don't miss a great opportunity. Try Chernobyl ants, yellow sallies, Parachute Adams, stimulator, royal wulff, sierra brite dot, Griffiths gnat and cdc flying ant. For the nymph use zug bugs, birds nest, flashback hares ear pheasant tail #18, buckskin, copper johns, prince nymphs #16-18, microstones #18, wd40, and juju baetis #20.

JUNE LAKE has been fishing fairly well at the west end of the lake toward the north corner away from the marina and along the north shore. Two fly rigs produced some action, but change patterns if they don't produce after 15 minutes. If no takes drop your line deeper as the temperature is more comfortable for trout to feed in cooler water. Use Olive Hornberg's, Crystal buggers olive Loeberg's and orange fish hawk. Check June Lake Marina or Ernie's for the best fly selection before hitting the lake.

GULL LAKE is doing well near the reeds with damsel's, Rickard's AP Nymphs, and olive BH woolies, dries working are Humpy's, para Adams, and Griffith's Gnats, large furry ants and even a few hoppers.

SILVER LAKE is still producing well with the DFW stocking and County Enhancement program plus their Alpers plants. Try stripping near the south side of the lake toward the grassy area with olive BH buggers, Loeberg's, Matuka's, Spruceabou's, crystal leeches. Give the Hornberg a shot, you might be surprised.

LUNDY water has leveled out and Edison is cutting back on irrigating the grazers and the hatchery on Conway Ranch. The ponds

in the back have a good amount of water. Some areas are buggy so you just have to fish nearby to see what they have been taking. Normal flies for this time of year for the lake are Olive/black wooly buggers, and the Pistol Pete in olive and grizzly. Some dries are working on the south side near the inlet where the browns are enjoying the deli that cruises the lake every couple hours and wander into their area.

VIRGINIA LAKES catching has improved even with the recent thunderstorm/lightning events. DFW continues to stock weekly along with our Alpers, and a variety of streamers but mainly a lot of dry flies have been providing great evening entertainment. Day-tuggers have been using Denny Rickard's seal bugger and my bushy version of his callibaetis nymph have been consistent. Nymphs working sporadically have been Hare's Ear size 16, and a bead head pheasant flash flashback. Loads of dries have been hitting in between the crusty weather and we are going into the green body mosquitoes and grey hackle peacocks within a couple days. We had a couple days of wind and drizzle and some snow over the crest at the Summit but it was absorbed quickly. Griffith's Gnats are working in the upper lakes to the summit and small bushy dark flies along with my favorite X-Caddis in dark olive with a light tan Z-Lon shuck and a consistent favorite of mine.

EAST WALKER flow is at 90cfs and dropped from 112cfs on the 22nd, and making it a little difficult to fish except for the holes. Early morning and evening is a best time to fish it if you care about the resource. Try elk hair caddis, yellow sallies, parachute Adams, parachute caddis, large ants, foam hoppers, and hackle stackers. You'll have to give all your nymphs a try, as it's been hard unless you fish very early with Trico's and late with Caddis patterns, so try cdc emerging Baetis #18, two bit hooker #16, super flash pheasant tail #18, micro may, copper johns, prince nymphs, fox's poopah #16, and little brown bug #18. Stripping marabou leeches, bh sparkle leech, meatwhistle, Matuka, Mini Sculpin, crystal buggers and the Sheep Creek specials. Remember should you hit a hawg revive it slowly and take CARE, this river does not get restocked..

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR is very low and most of the trout are congregated in deeper water area. Anglers are finding it difficult to tug a fly so be sure and check with Ken's in Bridgeport prior to hitting the river for daily conditions and the fly of the hour. They know the heartbeat of the river.

WEST WALKER flow is 74cfs and run-off is non-existent. 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. They have been spotted crossing the river. Try some two-fly rigs with bushy indicator fly and a wd40, buckskin, fox's poopah, rainbow warrior, lightning bug and rubber leg copper johns.

See you on the water, CJ

(13.6.28)