

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing Tip: *Casting into the wind with control*

Casting into the wind has not been my favorite part of fly fishing and I've always avoided fishing when it's too windy. Over time I've found that being tall and/or short has nothing to do with casting into the wind and it's all about being properly equipped.

When I was trying to improve my casting skills I was taught how to cast into the wind, but could not grasp the "power push" of the wrist to project the rod moving in a forward motion, it just went up overhead and back without any control.

Being properly equipped means not a time to use a soft rod and double-taper line. Modern graphite rods have the stiffness to beat the wind if they match a weight-forward line, shorter leader and more suitable aerodynamic fly (less wind resistance). Also your clothing is critical in the wind, a hat, sunglasses and a jacket that will absorb any impalement by felonious flies. There are many ways to learn to cast into the wind, left side wind, right side wind, forward wind, back cast wind, and so forth. But what I'm referring to is front wind with a fairly standard 5wt. 9 foot rod taking a fly about 40 70 feet forward. The only thing I have found that works for me is a power backcast and a soft forward cast. If you look at the internet and read about "Deeter", you will see his method. He has a saying "rugged man...soft cast" Hard on the backcast, and easy on the forward cast. This is all I can tell you to practice, and it works perfectly regardless of the angle of the wind or the angle of your body. Do it and see the results! It's the best.

Fishing News and Updates:

Mono County Trophy program will continue into spring of 2015 for the current contract with Desert Springs Trout Farm in Oregon.

Conway Ranch is going under the preliminary 30-day public comments for the Conservation Easement under Eastern Sierra Land Trust which was requested by CalTrans through one of the two grants under which the ranch was purchased for an alleged violation of one grant which the County denies. Latest news is that CalTrans granted an extension for the MOU until December 1st.

East Walker River bathrooms are still undergoing scrutiny and more red-tape as new information from DFW and an on-site inspection with the new person in charge and she seems receptive but it is more complex process than originally thought. Hopefully CalTrans and DFW will have a meeting of the minds and this can proceed.

Nothing current on the big news coming soon is the Department of Fish and Wildlife's request to simplify regulations due to be implemented in 2016. Currently it is being researched at the Department level and will go to business and public discussion at a later date. Updates will be reported through the winter if necessary.

DFW reported they are moving forward with using Little Walker for the brood stock for the Kamloops Rainbow Trout, if I reported this previously, disregard.

ESFGA will be moving forward with installation of the disabled fishing access.

***Weather** – I've made an appointment with my physician to do a psyche evaluation on "Mother". She has been more temperamental than I can remember in 41 summers here on the mountain. Maybe a bit of Xanax on a regular schedule for a few weeks might put her in a better mood to provide some much needed moisture starting around mid October and going right through mid-March that way the Ground-hog can have a nice winter's nap.*

Fishing Report:

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size, and gear.

ROCK CREEK has been doing well using terrestrials as they are getting washed into the water during the storms. Take a lunch and hike in to Chickenfoot or Long lake, you can even go to upper Morgan and fish the inlet/outlet for some fun action. I hiked to Golden Lake and caught some nice fish on a nymph under the notch. Stream is low and very clear so stay away from the edge or you'll be just exercising your arm. I tried black fur ants with good results but they are spooky. Dries working are Para-Adams #6-18, BWO (very thin body) #16-18, elk hair caddis #18, parachute kicking hoppers and large foam ants. Nymphs working: Crystal baetis #18-22, Tungsten Psycho #18-20, Split Wingcase BWO #16-20, Zebra midges #18-20, pheasant tails 18-22 and Hare's Ear #16-18.

HOT CREEK flow is at 32cfs and clear. Weeds are still a struggle and water temps are stable in the mid to upper 60's. Fish in the deepest water you can find and between the weeds. Hatches are good early am on midges, and caddis pupa/larvae/adults in the afternoon. Streamers are not on the menu. Dries working are extended body blue winged olive 18-22, CDC Caddis 18-22, Hot Creek caddis 18-20, Parachute Caddis 18-20, Parachute Adams 16-20, and Elk Hair Caddis 16-20. Nymphs: Fox's Caddis Poopah in olive size 20, Nori's Caddis pupa olive #20, Anderson's Bird of Prey in Olive size #18 and a buckskin caddis #20. Also try some Zebra midges 18-22, WD-40 18-22, Micro Mayfly 18-22 and Scuds 14-16. With normal breezy afternoons try #20-22 midges. Warm weather will induce some hatches despite the cooler temps at night. *Please stay out of the water to and help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.*

CROWLEY LAKE is still going down a few more inches than last week and Sitting at 6760 feet and the islands are getting close to popping out just near the marina. Water temperature has dropped from 68° to 64° on the bottom uniformly around the lake. Water is almost crystal clear with zero algae. Great reports for Big and Little Hilton, stormy flats, windy beach and in McGee Bay from inside on the west in about 9 ft. of water to outside and to the east 200 yards in 12 feet. Multiple 18" trout were common-place for most anglers. Recommended fly and the go-to fly for the past week under an indicator, has been the Albino Baron, and it is being fished up against the weed line. Also try stripping using a Perch fry imitation - Hornberg's, Perfection Perch and Punk Perch, but check with the Crowley Lake Marina for more info.

UPPER OWENS flows are at 49cfs above the Hot Creek Confluence (8/22), and clear but rust colored below. Fishing seems to be getting better everyday and some Crowley fish are very hungry. Nymphing under the indicator or stripping with a sink tip is the best way. Top water flies: EC Caddis 16-20, Elk Hair caddis 16-18, Parachute Adams, and Stimulator 14-18. Nymphs: Copper Johns 14-18, Hare's Ear 14-18, flashback PT #16, Zebra Midges 18-20 and red San Juan Worms 12. Streamers working are perfection Perch, and red or wine leeches.

CONVICT LAKE stocked the lake with 400 pounds of trophy trout on August 26th, and stocked with DFW bows again, and it should be wide open. Dry Flies: Adams, Female Adams, Cutter's Caddis, Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, Black/Red Ants, Sierra Bright Dot, Royal Coachman and Hoppers. Streamers: Woolly Bugger (black, brown, olive, or green), Mutukas (black, brown, olive, or green), Hornbergs, and Muddler Minnows. Wet Flies(Nymphs): Prince Nymph, Flashback Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear, Zebra Midge (red and black), Copper John (red and copper) and San Juan Worm (brown or red).

MAMMOTH BASIN - Water is clear and cool with temps in the 40's at night and has greatly improved the fishing with reports of large fish on the bite. Fish a full sink line and get it down there. Also try fishing under an indicator or try some dries late in the evening. Flies working are Griffith Gnat 16-22, Parachute Adams

16-20, Stimulator and Yellow Humpty #16-18. Nymphs working are Zebra midges 18-22, tan/olive Bird's nests 14-16, Pheasant tails, Hare's Ear, Callibaetis and copper zebras. Streamers working are olive and black Twin Lakes Specials 10-12, olive and black wooly buggers 10-12 and flashabou buggers in black.

SAN JOAQUIN - Water is clear and flows are down to 13cfs. Fishing is not red hot so look for deeper pools and any section of the river that has cover to provide protection and a good feeding zone. Early morning and late in the evening when the water is the coolest will always be better. Small dries on a #3 or 4 wt. is a lot of fun. Beautiful browns below Rainbow Falls and the hike is always worth it.

JUNE LAKE is still doing fairly well due to the number of trout in the holding pens from Desert Springs that are being released into the lake.. Reports state that dries working are Para Adams, large ants, yellow Stimulators, and hoppers along the weedy areas of the shoreline. Streamers working are Wooly Buggers in black, brown, olive or green, Matuka's in same colors, also a Loebergs # 10. Nymphs that saw action were Prince, Zebra, Copper John, Flashback Pheasant Tail and red or brown San Juan worm.

GULL LAKE – Trophy trout are arriving every month, so get up here and wet a line, anything goes that you've used here before, so sharpen up those hooks and dust off the marabou and hit the water with good hatches in the weeds. Stop in at the store to see what flies are working the best they have a better up to date report.

SILVER LAKE - Berkley Mice Tails! They have been the hottest ticket most of the summer. The "tails" could be trimmed to fit on the back end of a fly hook with a frilly hackle of sorts and it could be a nice fly. Just when I think I've actually had a new idea I saw a new pattern the latest FLY TYER magazine using the kibosh ball tentacles. Fishing has been incredibly steady this past week with plenty planters by DFW and an enormous amount of nice 2 to 5 pounders brought in every day. We are expecting to receive a DFW weekly 800 pound plant and another 400 pounds from Desert Springs of Oregon before the holiday weekend. With the holiday weekend coming up, don't forget that Silver Lake Resort will have its annual Chris Jones Memorial Scholarship Horseshoe Tournament and BBQ on Saturday August 30th starting at 11 am and live music by "Good Living" on the grass by the lake on Sunday August 31st at 5pm! Come on out and enjoy the last part of summer and enjoy some great fishing and entertainment.

RUSH CREEK flows are at a trickle and trout will spook if they see a shadow. Try an Elk Hair Caddis #14-18 or Stimulator 14-18. Nymphs: Copper Johns 14-18, Prince nymphs 14-18, Micro Mayfly 16-20, Micro Stone 10-16, Zebra Midge 18-20, PT 14-20, and Hare's ear 14-19. Streamers working are BH Carey Bugger, Crystal Bugger, Rickard's emerging bugger, Matuka, and BH Pop's Bugger

GRANT LAKE - Water is cold and clear, and a little down from last month but with good reports on fishing. DFW continues to stock. Fishing was good throughout the month and if you want a current report check with the marina.

LUNDY LAKE - The Lake is down and dropping in small increments which won't affect the fishing. They are scheduled to get the County Enhancement last week so fish it like you would June Lake with same flies.

VIRGINIA LAKES - Sunrise 6:23am- Sunset 7:33. County Enhancement dumped in 400 pounds of trophies *on the 21st and Big Virginia got 400 pounds on the 27th and over 600 pounds from DFW in both lakes including 450 pounds in Trumbull.* Some were a bit on the small size but will fit into a skillet should you decide not to release them. Best fly for the last couple weeks is still the "dirty Doc" size 10-12, it's a real catcher and everyone is having great fun. Some danger midges, copper head midges, hare's ear and olive bird's nests are working depending on the air temperature. Dries working in the early morning if there's a good ripple like a black caddis.

EAST WALKER flow as of this writing was 43cfs and fishing is better below the bridge and into Nevada. Nights are colder and days are very nice so try dries like Parachute Adams #16-18, Elk Hair Caddis and Stimulators #16-18 will be a lot of fun early and late, but nymphing will be your best producer. Streamers working are, black or olive wooly buggers #8-12, Punk Perch 10-14 in olive or olive/pink, and Hornbergs. Nymphs: Micro Mayfly, zebra midge Barr's flashback BWO 18-29, Nori's Caddis Pupa 18-20, Z-Caddis 16-20, Buckskin caddis 14-20, rainbow warrior 18-22, tungsten psycho, JuJu Baetis 18-29 and two-bit hooker 18-20. Remember water is low and if you hook into something substantial take care in releasing and save the resource. Be sure and call Ken's at 932.7707 and get the latest report, things change rapidly with low warm water.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR is low and the "bathtub" is the best spot for hooking fish. Fishing has been surprising in the deeper with mayfly patterns later in the day if the temperature rises. Callibaetis by the inlets and try zebra midges, shaft emerger, olive Bird's Nest, Jensen's Callibaetis, and Rickards AP emerger. Streamers working are Hornbergs #10, Matuka's 10-12, olive and brown buggers, Hale Bopp Leech 10-12 and Punk Perch 10-14. Don't forget to call Ken's and talk to Rick or Jim for the best flies for the day, as conditions and water change constantly and they will put you onto the right fly.

WEST WALKER flow is 30cfs. Water is low due to the rains and my recommendation is to try the flat water near the bridge down to Chris Flat. Also try below the first bridge as you enter Walker. It has warmed up nicely once again so try some foam attractors over Bird's nest, pheasant tail or San Juan worms. It had been fishing well prior to the drop in temperature with some nice trophy's showing a dorsal to olive wooly buggers or even large ant patterns along the calm edges.

See you on the water, CJ 14.8p