

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

News: IFFF 50th Anniversary

"The International Federation of Fly Fishers is celebrating their 50th year anniversary and hoping you will join them in the celebration in Bend Oregon. The Foundation (IFFF) about conservation and education in the sport of fly fishing, while focusing on fly tying and casting certification. When most people learn about fly fishing, they have an opportunity to teach a youth, family member or friend. If you could teach or expose one young person to fly fishing, you would be preserving our sport and the IFFF mission. This year we have 80-plus workshops where you can learn everything you need to know about the sport. More than 100 tyers will gather in the exhibit hall during the event, including some from Japan and Iceland. Attendees will see fishing demonstrations, exhibitors, and free programs that will provide information about IFFF's history and what the future holds for our sport. Come celebrate with us and enjoy the fun and fellowship that the Fair has to offer". Sincere thanks, Philip Greenlee, President/CEO.

The event will be held at The Riverhouse Convention Center Exhibit Hall and will have 48 exhibit spaces for fly fishing retailers, artists, travel services and other companies that cater to the fly fishing lifestyle. They will also be hosting a museum booth and authors signing booth, and a photo contest with winners published in the Autumn 2015--Winter 2016 issue of *FLYFISHER* magazine. For detailed information regarding contest rules and instructions for photo submission go to www.fedflyfishers.org

On a side note, if you can find one, be sure and get a copy of Spring-Summer 2015 *FLYFISHER*, it's their 50th Anniversary issue that will be worth more than a "22 incher" in time.

CONWAY RANCH - Mono County Enhancement Program (trophy trout previously known as Alpers)

According to the written report to the board of supervisors as part of the Conway Ranch Update and Workshop session, Tony Dublino, Environmental Services Manager, said Desert Springs Hatcher in Oregon which supplies trophy trout to the county and to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, has "expressed an interest in developing a 'recirculating aquaculture system' at Conway Ranch" after learning of emerging technology in recirculating water systems, and have expressed an interest in developing one at Conway Ranch. A recirculating aquaculture system, however, could reduce necessary water quantity because aquaculture water is treated and re-circulated instead of flowing through (as has been done historically). Also, Dublino said, it would allow for strict control of disease and contaminants, which are significant issues for a flow-through system that is subject to the water quality vagaries of Wilson Creek. "Until recently, such a system did not appear economically feasible, but in light of recent developments it appears that a request for a proposal for (such a system) at Conway Ranch may in fact receive some response."

SENATE BILL-345, legislation introduced in February for the Sport-fishing Stimulus Act of 2015 (Berryhill, R-Twain Harte) unanimously passed by the CA State Senate

June 4, 2015. It will establish a 12-month fishing license from date of purchase, create a junior fishing license at a reduced price of \$15 (not special permits and will allow charitable organizations to use fish caught by anglers for their functions, and not subject the charities to fines if an event exceeds possession limits.

DFW reported 2015 stocking would be down by 40% due to budgetary problems within the department through the legislature. Stocking has been done every week since early June but that will change by Labor Day as reported. Desert Springs out of southern Oregon is still planting the trophy trout for their Enhancement Program.

CalTrans is still working on US395 along Mono Lake to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes. Be prepared for daily lane closures with delays no longer than 20 minutes; Monday thru Thursday from 5am to 8pm and Fridays 6am to 3pm with flaggers and a pilot car.

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water concerning limits, size, and other restrictions.

ROCK CREEK LAKE road reconstruction will trigger summer-long delays up to 30 minutes and possibly longer but should shorten as they finish the bridge slab work which means replacing large sections of the bridge using heavy equipment which will be done the 3rd week of July, but no report on their progress due to the heavy rain-hail-snow that fell in May. No fishing report!

CROWLEY LAKE is seeing a slight algae bloom in Hilton and McGee Bays. Fish remain deep, 17-22 feet. Sacramento perch fry are now present along the shorelines and weed beds. Browns will target these sources of protein from this point forward. Try Hilton and if no luck head to McGee, both can be very good in around 16-21 feet. Trout are concentrated in these areas and gorging on chironomids just outside the submerged weed lines. The lake level continues to rise slowly, and the weed lines are growing out to 16 feet all over the lake. Water clarity is very good for this time of summer. The damsel fly migration and emergence has begun, it's on! Try all types of midges, it's all wide open, especially Lowe's Broken back #16 and 18, even the BB dark zebra or long shank crystal zebra midge as your dropper in deep water. Be careful as you net fish as some are spitting blood from their gills which is caused by mineral deposits that attach to the gill filaments due to the high alkalinity levels in the water. Let the fish resuscitate before lifting it out of the water, or don't lift it out. Take care of the resource, if you enjoy this lake. Talk to the Crowley Lake store, Kent Rianda of the Trout Fitter or Tom Lowe of Sierra Drifters for more information on protecting the fish.

UPPER OWENS is fair with planted trout moving upstream into deeper pools due to high temps. Conditions are much better and you can get into some browns on caddis, Parachute Adams, Stimulator #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18. Nymphs: Zebra midge #18-20, red copper John #14-18, Prince nymph #14-18, red San Juan worm #12, flashback hares ear #14-18, and a rubber leg flashback pheasant tail.

CONVICT LAKE is always heavily stocked by the resort and reports have been fairly good, but again due to the weather conditions it can be up and down, so fish deep with a full sink and possibly a weighted fly. Try the inlet and outlets and keep your line tight should a "Desert Springs Beauty" cruise the area. Be sure and look under the bridge. 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), Matuka (black, brown, olive), Hornberg, 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).

HOT CREEK flume is at 29cfs, 11cfs more than last month with clear water. Knowing how to throw a good drift (short) to get into fish is essential but mainly look for slots in the weeds. Some dark or natural looking caddis in the afternoons. Trout are mostly taking small mayflies with good numbers but keep them riding high in the foam. There are a few sections that can be fished with a dry dropper nymph rig. Also, hoppers are starting to move in and a stimulator has a good profile for this. Tom Loe's high-vis caddis works very well. Dead drifted zebras, scuds, flashback PT's or Bird's next bead had size 18 for droppers. Dries: Try Parachute Adams size 20, Extended body blue winged olive 20-22 and Griffith's Gnats. Nymphs taking fish are WD-40 #20-22 Grey RS2 emergers, #18-20, Tungsten Psycho 18-20, olive Micro-mayflies #18, Zebra Midge 20-22, and Frostbite Midge 20-22. Streamers - very iffy.

MAMMOTH BASIN SAN JOAQUIN flow is low but still has great spots holding trout. Just below the "Falls" should bring in some nice fish. I'm planning a short jaunt down there in 3 weeks to test some patterns in a couple favorite spots. Stay with top water flies and terrestrials that are very floaty (is that a word?).

JUNE LAKE water level is holding and seems to not be down as previously reported due to all the rain, hail and snow the backcountry received over the past couple weeks. Use a fast sinking line and run your streamers down around 20 or 30 feet with buggers and leech patterns with soft hackle droppers should get you some fish if you get them deep.

GULL LAKE - Gary put in some really nice trophies on July 16th, and another load is coming on August 6th so bring your best streamers, buggers and a dropper near the reeds. Check in at the shop and see what's hot.

SILVER was stocked last Thursday with 400 pounds of large rainbows from Desert Springs of Oregon averaging 3 pounds. Fishing was good overall considering the up and down temperatures and weather. Always hit the smaller areas of the inlet and outlet for browns cruising for larger morsels to whet their appetites. Lake is only about 9" down and has come up in the last 6 weeks due to the rain-hair-more rain.

RUSH CREEK: No report on flows or fly action., but if it is typical of the last two summers, try some small attractor patterns, and I would use a blue dun dry, small olive elk hair caddis, small orange wulff's, and a Sierra Bright Dot. Give it a try you have nothing to lose but a glorious afternoon in the Eastern Sierra.

GRANT LAKE is extremely low but still a lot of water to fish on the east side so try the south shore (drive) or the inlet (park and walk) for trophy's cruising for smaller fish. Check with Ernie's or the Grant Lake Marina for current info.

LUNDY LAKE is has risen and the fishing is great. County trophy program hit with a splash and reports are good from tubing using buggers, black, brown, dark olive along with Prince nymphs, Zug bugs, olive bird's nest and the rubber legged flashback Prince.

LITTLE VIRGINIA - BIG VIRGINIA & TRUMBLE LAKE Water levels are great, and is holding at a normal level. Big Virginia is down about 3" making it difficult to move boats in and out unless you use the boat ramp. Upper lakes are in great shape and I didn't see much of a drop when I went to Summit Lake. Fly anglers are using beetles and ants on top as well as burgundy/olive seal buggers, olive cone-head leeches, soft hackles and prince nymphs. Some dry fly action in early am and late evening if there's a ripple on the water. We've had mayflies, dragonflies, midges, moths, ants and hoppers have started their ascent up the hill and should arrive in about a week as the weather warms so try some mini leeches, matukas soft hackles and zug bugs

GREEN CREEK water levels are good with a normal outflow from all the lakes above.

EAST WALKER The East is still running at 38 cfs, the water temperatures are still good and the fish are still seem healthy and strong. The fishing has been a bit tough but if you get your casts and drifts in the right places you should be able to sack a few nice fish. The section below the bridge on hwy 182 as well as the

Nevada side of the river are reported as the most productive areas. There are fish hanging out on the deeper pools as well as underneath overhanging willows and some are hugging undercut banks. Be stealthy and look for fish in-close before you get in the water. Patterns to try include Fox's Poopah, buckskin caddis, San Juan worm, tungsten death, silver streak, rainbow warrior, chubby Chernobyl, madam X and dark lord, woolly buggers, WD-40, white Zebra midge, Rainbow Warrior, Micro-mayflies, stimulators, rubber leg stimulator and Chubby Chernobyl.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR Check with Ken's Sporting Good and Jeff at the marina for flies, boat rentals and current fishing info. Unfortunately the shore fishing is pretty slow so you'll need to be out in a boat, kayak or tube but fly anglers are doing well with hoppers, ants, humpy's, royal wulff's, prince nymphs, pheasant tails, Zug bugs and hare's ears. Look for foam lines, pools, deep curves and some runs are deceptive, so be alert.

KIRMAN LAKE - Ken's Sporting Goods said it is still pretty tough with most anglers reporting only one or no fish for their efforts. It sounds like the water is very low and there's a LOT of scud in the water and it seems the fish are just gorging themselves on the naturals. Throwing one fly patterns amongst literally thousands of live scuds hurts your odds of getting bit. Hopefully later in the season when the water cools and the scuds become less active, this should help the angling considerably.

See you on the water, CJ

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