

TAYLOR RIVER FLY-FISHING REPORT

WILDER ON THE TAYLOR



A Guide in the Making

By Lu Warner, Master Guide

July 27, 2014 — We have been enjoying 2 weeks of the best dry fly fishing of the year here at the Wilder. The Taylor river has dropped to just below 500 CFS and hatches have been prolific during the days as well as evenings. Fishing has been off the charts and several large fish have been taken on Dries including a 23 inch hefty Cutthroat fooled by a 6 year old with a Green Drake Pattern.

Mornings can start a little slow but fish can be found looking for Dries in shallow riffles and looking for spent spinners in the glassy tail outs of the pools. Otherwise a Dry/ Dropper fished deep in the runs can be effective. I generally start the day out by throwing big attractor dries such as a size 10 Royal Wulff which has fooled many

trout in the last 2 weeks. As the day warms up, the hatches begin. First Caddis start coming off and shortly afterwards we see the first Mayflies of the day. Generally the PMD's start to hatch first with Green Drakes and BWO's following close behind. The Drake hatch can be a very short event, sometimes lasting only a few minutes and anglers should be ready to put on a Drake and target some of the bigger fish before they slide back down into the depths. On some days we have had a strong BWO hatch after the Drakes, say around 2 pm which actually brings more big fish to the top than the Drakes, probably because there are so many of them. If you see fish eating BWO'S, it's time to taper down your leaders to 6X and tie on a size 20 BWO. The hottest action has been from 12-3 with peak fishing between 1 and 2 pm. At this time almost any well presented dry fly can catch fish. Our favorite mid day patterns have been Parachute Adams(size 10-20), Parachute BWO (size 16-22), Green Drakes(size 6-12), PMD Compara Dun and Sparkle Dun patterns.

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Around 3 pm the fish normally take a little break and the action slows a bit until say 5 pm when the Caddis egg layers start to fly over the water to deposit their eggs. These Caddis bounce off the surface to distribute their eggs and you will see fish jump way up in the air to catch them. I have found that the best way to catch these Caddis eating fish is by skating a small Elk Hair Caddis over likely lies. The Tenkara rod is a great tool for this as the light line makes it possible to dance the Dry fly just like the naturals. Of course at any time you might be successful with a Drake or Parachute Adams. Bottom line is that if what you're fishing isn't catching fish, change your fly and try something else.

In the late afternoons we are also seeing Yellow Sallies, and a variety of size 14-18 Stoneflies. Stimulators and Yellow Sallee patterns can move some fish as well but If all else fails, put on a size 16-20 Parachute Adams and fish it with confidence!

Unfortunately the bounty of bugs in the river is about to diminish as August comes along which will likely make the fishing a bit more of a challenge. When this happens our tactics will change as fish will concentrate more on micro food items such as Midges and keep one eye open for large terrestrials such as Grasshoppers. A dropper beneath a Hopper can be very effective and I like small stuff like size 20 WD-40's, Zebra Midges, BWO's and Caddis Pupae. Tungsten heads will help your small flies sink down and I prefer them to normal bead heads in the small sizes. This can also be a good time to experiment with streamers.

Rarick Creek is producing some big Rainbows on dry flies. We have caught many in the 20-22 inch range and a couple right at 24 inches. This is a perfect time to head out to the Creek with a box full of Hopper patterns as Don and his crew are cutting the hay right next to the banks.



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This can send the fish into a feeding frenzy looking for Hoppers and losing all caution for such a big meal. As usual, your best weapon as a fly fisherman is stealth, and approaching the Creek carefully and making a nice quiet cast will greatly increase your odds for a productive session.

All of the Ponds have been fishing very well as fish concentrate on the large Damselfly hatches that we have here. At times, you can see large swarms of Damsels on the water and fish going crazy underneath them eating as many as they can. Best bet for the ponds is a Damsel or Hopper pattern. If the fish don't come up, then try a Dropper such as a small Pheasant Tail or Hare'e Ear and hang on!

This is a great time to be on the water at the Wilder so get out here and enjoy some of the best dry fly fishing in the West while it is hot. Feel free to contact me directly at 970-946-4370 for up to date river reports and suggestions for flies and gear.



Lu Warner is a master fishing and mountain biking guide at Wilder on the Taylor, a ranch community located between Gunnison and Crested Butte, and has been fly fishing and tying flies since the young age of 8. Since 1985, he has worked as a fly fishing guide in Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Alaska, Argentina and southern Chile. Warner has guided the summers in the Crested Butte/Gunnison area since 2000. From October through May, he resides in the Patagonia of Chile where he owns and operates the Valle Bonito Lodge, which specializes in fly fishing, hiking and mountain bike adventures.

6337 COUNTY RD 742
ALMONT, CO 81210
(970) 641-4545

WILDERCOLORADO.COM

