

# TAYLOR RIVER FLY-FISHING REPORT

AUGUST 4, 2014

WILDER ON THE TAYLOR



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**By Lu Warner, Master Guide**

**August 4, 2014**— Fishing at the Wilder continues to be "on fire" as Dry fly action has been pretty much non-stop for the last month. All of our guests and owners have had some fantastic days on the water.

River levels have remained steady in the low 500 CFS range and numerous afternoon showers have kept the water temperatures cool and the hatches prolific.

Mornings as usual start a little bit slow and we are having the best luck with an Attractor Dry/Dropper combo or if you pick the right water, small Rusty Spinners or Parachutes fished on a long leader with light tippet.

Around lunch time, things start to heat up as we are seeing strong Caddis, Stonefly, Blue Wing, Green Drake and PMD hatches most afternoons. Just before the hatch, the fish seem responsive to many different dries including Parachute Adams(12-20) PMD Sparkle Duns and Parachutes(14-18), Green Drakes(10-12) and Blue Wings(18-22). However at the hatch gets strong, the fish can become very selective and the biggest challenge can be in trying to figure out just exactly what the fish are eating. Oftentimes they appear to be rising but are actually feasting on Emergers in the surface film and slightly below. Pay attention to the rise form and watch carefully to see if the fish you see are eating Dries or Emergers. I have found that on many occasions it's the latter and a well presented Dry may be completely ignored. If you find this to be the case, a floating nymph such as an unweighted Pheasant Tail, Drake or PMD Emerger can be the ticket fished a short ways behind your dry.

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Hatch activity has been most active between 1 and 4 pm and can be strong or weak depending on the day, cloud cover etc. We have seen more rising fish during the brief rainstorms than we have during any other time period. So if it is raining and there are no nearby thunderstorms, you may find yourself in the middle of lots of rising fish. We have also seen the hatches “pulse” and waves of bugs may be followed by a lull and then more waves, so don’t give up to quickly before 4 pm as the hatch may kick in late.

Late afternoon, the Mayfly hatches dwindle and the Caddis begin to lay their eggs on the water. After an hour or so of seeing these bouncing Caddis, the fish finally can’t stand it anymore and during this time you can see fish jumping high out of the water to try to catch one of these egg layers. This is hard to imitate and normally a dead drifted Caddis is ineffective. We get the best results by skating a small Caddis over the glassy runs.

The very best results come with the Tenkara rod as its length and lightweight line make skating a fly much more controllable.

Best advice is to get out on the River in the early afternoon and fish a small (size 16-20) well presented Dry fly to rising fish and in foam lines and seams that attract the larger fish.

The Ponds at the Wilder are holding some big fat Rainbows that will definitely test your terminal tackle. At this time of year, their biggest food source are Damselflies and Hoppers and both of these are good fly patterns to begin with. At times and particularly in the mornings, the fish tend to concentrate more on Midges and a small Parachute with a long leader generally produces better than a large dry. As the day warms up however things change and Damsel and Dragon dries can bring violent surface strikes that will test your nerves.



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If Dries don't seem to be working, try a small bead head Pheasant Tail or Damsel nymph Dropper and you will be sure to fool one of these big Bows.

Rarick Creek has been experiencing high flows due to all the recent rains in the high country. This has made the dry fly fishing a bit tough and it might remain that way until we have a few dry days and the water settles down a bit. The fish are mostly holding deep and can be fooled with large, heavy droppers such as a San Juan Worm or Size 10 Pheasant Tail. The cool temperatures keep the fish strong and happy and these fish when hooked, will smoke your reel, jump a few times and provide an exciting fight for even the best anglers.

For up to date fishing reports, gear and fly selection, river conditions etc. feel free to call me directly at 970-946-4370.



**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.

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