

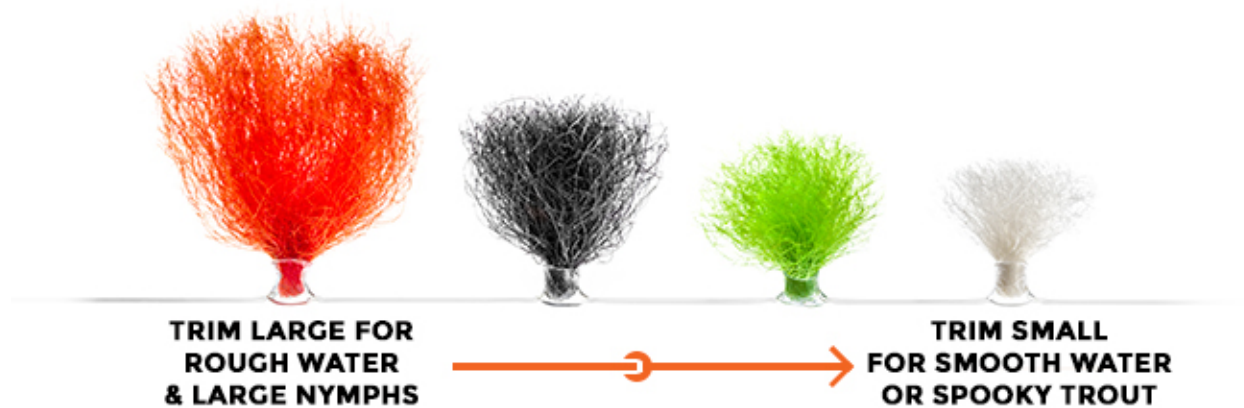
Rocky Point (Klamath Lake Revisited)

By Beth Jappay

Last week was my first trip to Rocky Point since the [article](#) I wrote last year. I called ahead of time and was told the air quality was good—the fires were to the east, and the winds were blowing west to east. One of the guides warned me the fishing was slow. I checked in at the resort and launched my pontoon. Initially the fishing was slow and it took me a bit to figure it out. I tried multiple techniques that had worked well last year without much success, and the first 2 days I caught only one fish. However, that fish was 25” and over 12 lbs.



On Tuesday Benson arrived, which I had been hoping for. He had two friends and reported 12 fish that morning for the boat. They were exclusively indicator fishing...Gah! Resigning myself to my least favorite fly fishing style, I decided to try a new indicator system that I had stopped and bought on the way down: [Strike New Zealand indicator kit](#).



I absolutely loved it. It has such little wind resistance I was able to cast over 70' with my 7 weight rod. Its biggest advantage is how lightly it lands--a big plus with spooky fish. The system can only support a couple of small midge patterns or unweighted nymphs, though. Less annoyed by clunky casting, and able to alleviate my boredom by listening to an Audiobook I was now able to tolerate hours of staring at green wool...and I started to consistently catch fish.

I was then able to get a couple of throat samples, and found almost 100% midge pupa—dark brown, size #14 to #16, and very thin. My catch rate accelerated as I designed a matching pattern that is a variation on a brassie.



Hook: Grub/scud hook #14-16

Thread: Veevus 16/0 black or brown

Bead: Black tungsten 2.3 to 2.8 mm

Body: Small Ultra Wire, two strands of Black and one of Brown or Amber
(alternative two Olive and one black)

I found that pattern will work all day long, and a pheasant tail nymph under an indicator will work mid to late morning with the mayfly hatch. Benson reported a balanced leech worked near sunset, and I found that to be true only if it was entirely black and size #14 or smaller. The next few days I was catching 5-8 fish a day, but the last day and a half of fishing there was absolutely no wind, no midge hatch, and fishing was again very slow (and the air quality worsened). Like last year the lake fishes best from sunrise to nineish, and from 5 pm to full dark. The middle of the day can fish well if there is a chop on the water.

The club trip to Klamath will be on August 21st and it will be my first time hosting a trip. Rocky Point Resort still has both tenting and partial hook-up sites available, and the public boat launch is right next to it. I will be arriving on the 15th and will be in site #19. I am planning a 1 pm lunch get together, as the fishing is slow in the middle of the day.

Klamath Lake grows huge fish. A second-year rainbow will grow to 16" to 22", and a third-year to 24" to 27" and much broader of shoulder.





About a third of my fish were over 24". Therefore, I recommend 6 and 7 weight rods, and a steelhead/salmon net. Pontoons with a light anchor are suggested and so far my most productive flies are: midge pupa (dark) sized #14 to #20, pheasant tail and prince nymphs (with and without bead), and dark balanced leeches sized #14 to #16. I am mostly fishing with two rods set up for different indicators—one with a Thingamabobber for my balanced leech or stripping a bead-head nymph (after taking off the indicator), and the other with 15 feet of 3x line, 5x tippet, with my New Zealand indicator system for midge pupa.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at EJappay@comcast.net. Hope to see you there.