



by George L. Eldridge

Let's talk a bit about lighting. The sunlight is the best lighting you can have. Always shoot with the sun at your back for best results. Try different angles to see where the shadows fall for the best effect.

Try not to shoot when the sun is directly overhead. If you must, then use your flash to soften the shadows.

Speaking of the flash this is what causes the infamous Red Eye. Have your subjects not look into the lens when shooting with a flash. Another method is to move in closer for a tight shot. The best method is to move outdoors and use natural light.

Some people shudder when it's cloudy or partly cloudy. No need to fear, this is excellent lighting. You don't have harsh shadows and the colors are vivid without jumping out at you.

You may have heard about the 'Golden Hour'. That's at sunset and sunrise. Photos taken during these time are much warmer, especially the colors. Scenics are especially good at this time.

You should always have your tripod with you. You'll be glad you did when the group is sitting around the campfire. Try taking some with the flash and then mount the camera on a tripod and use the fire as your light. You'll coose that photo as a keeper.

When using a flash, watch your distance. Too close and the subject gets washed out.

Reasons to fish lakes in the winter

By Marvin Mitchum

For years I guided, and when trout season ended most anglers would place their rods away. My question was usually why, when here in the Gold Country, we have so many top quality lakes, loaded with sizeable hungry trout willing to take a fly.

When the season starts changing, temperatures start falling, the lakes start turning over. Large rainbows start searching the upper water levels for food. The most common food source is baitfish; they out number all other bottom dwelling residents ten to one. Remember if you find the baitfish, you will locate the fish.

Large streamers are the fly of choice, Woolly Buggers, Closer Minnows, Lefty Deceivers, and Hornbergs all work well, and are great imitations, and simple to tie. Another reason we are glad winter comes around, to enjoy an old hobby, fly tying.

When tying or buying flies, remember the old saying, "Big Fish, Big Flies". On the larger lakes we should be using at least size 4, long shank hook.

The reason Big Trout get large is they are able capture a maximum amount of food, with the least amount of energy, small trout spend significant amount of time chasing small insects.

With the large lakes like New Melones, Tulloch, Don Pedro, and McClure, float tubing the coves is a good way to get into some quality fish. Hang Close to the shore line. You don't have to have a boat. Three to five pound trout are common November till February. If you like to chase Bass, it only gets better. Big Bass are widespread. I have got

many sizeable smallmouth's on Tulloch that were in the three to five pound range. Fish repeatedly like to hang close to cover, look for weeds, shoals, lay downs, and rocky points. All are great places for bass to hide.

The key to fishing lakes effectively is not so much the fly, as it is the appropriate fly line. You must be in the correct zone. If you are at the proper depth, your catch rate will increase. Cover the area thoroughly using a countdown method. During winter a count of ten would work.

For tackle, I prefer a 9'7wt rod most of the time or maybe an 8wt. And remember, bass are not leader shy. Use 4 to 7 1/2 ft leaders. Keep them short. A reel with a good drag system is a must. These trout can fight.

So, instead of sitting in front of the fire dreaming about Trout Opener, tie a few flies, get the rod out of the closet, and head for the lakes.

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