



PHOTO BY GLENN ZINKUS

Todd Lake, Oregon

By Glenn Zinkus

Perched at 6,150 feet directly south of Broken Top, just a short drive south from Mount Bachelor, Todd Lake provides angling opportunities for enthusiastic brook trout in a gorgeous alpine meadow surrounded by forest where volcanic peaks provide a stunning backdrop. While Todd Lake is hugely popular as a spot for family hikes, anglers will often be alone on the lake. Combine little angling pressure with the idyllic surroundings, and Todd Lake makes for a great easy-to-reach destination from points in Central Oregon.

You can effectively cover Todd Lake by float tube or pontoon boat, or from shore. The hike to the lake covers an easy quarter mile, so carrying in your gear is no problem. The dropoffs are visible along some of the open shore areas; often you can see cruising brook trout on the shoals, and you can also blind-cast over the dropoffs. Subsurface flies are productive, and sometimes you can cast to

rising trout, perhaps even enjoying the opportunity to watch them ascend from the depths to inhale your fly. The lake reaches a maximum depth of 60 feet, so while an intermediate line is sufficient for nymph fishing, a full sinking line is better when trout are down deep during midsummer days. And be sure to take a floating line for fishing emergers and dries when the opportunity pre-sents itself.

A Todd Lake fly box need not be overly burdened with sophisticated patterns. The lake's brookies are happy to take basic attractor nymphs: Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Prince Nymphs, Hare's Ears, Denny's Stillwater Nymphs. For emergers, I carry Timberlines and Denny's APs, and I always keep a few dry *Callibaetis* mayfly and caddisfly patterns handy, as well as ant and beetle patterns. Last but definitely not least are leech patterns, which can be very effective for Todd Lake brookies. I like a slim black/green pattern tied on a size-8 or -10 streamer hook.

Fishing with a pontoon boat or float tube, while not absolutely neces-

sary, does open up more opportunities to experiment with techniques and also provides the mobility to locate the brookies.

Todd Lake is a seasonal fishery, generally fishable from June through October. It is technically open year-round, but the lake freezes over during winter, so fishing begins not only after ice-off, but also not until the stretch of the Cascade Lakes Highway leading to the area is plowed and opened to vehicles in late spring. Check with Bend fly shops to find out when the road is open: Fly and Field Outfitters, (866)

800-2812; The Patient Angler, (541) 389-6208; Orvis, (541) 312-8200.

Todd Lake is located just off the Cascade Lakes Highway, approximately 25 miles west of Bend, with signs marking the way to the trailhead. Local anglers can easily head out after work on a summer afternoon and fish the evening. Parking for Todd Lake requires a Northwest Forest Pass: \$5 per day or \$30 annually; www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/index.shtml.

Red Rock Lake, WA

By Steve Maeder

Red Rock Lake was created in 1966 by the construction of a dike along the western end of a natural corral. Its primary purpose is protecting a downstream railroad dike from flooding and erosion by containing surges from agricultural runoff coming into the east end and north side of the impoundment. The upshot for anglers is that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) saw an opportunity to create a mixed-species fishery here.