

GRAB BAG

BOOK SHELF // GLIMPSE // WILDLIFE // POP CULTURE // WORDS // Q&A // FOOD // FUN

By RYAN HUME
FOR COAST WEEKEND

MILL POND [MIL PÄND]

Also, millpond or mill-pond

noun

1. a small body of water used to either power a mill through damming a natural source of running water and diverting the flow to a wheel, or, in the case of a log pond, was a calm body of water used to store floating logs before they are processed in a sawmill

2. Mill Pond Village: a 16-acre residential development built snugly around a 3.7 acre former log pond on the Riverwalk just east of downtown Astoria. Zoned as a mixed-use project, the high density neighborhood was erected upon the razed site of the Astoria Plywood Cooperative, which operated as the central lumber hub in the area for over 120 years and was Astoria's largest employer when the employee-owned operation shut down in 1989. Designated as a brownfield site due to toxic contamination, the city and state spent four years in the 1990s cleaning up the site, which includ-

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ed the removal of 6000 cubic yards of soil and sediment and discharging over 57,000 gallons of clean water. In 1999 Venerable Properties acquired the scrubbed land from the city and began development of the neighborhood, which includes four public parks

Origin:

The compound was first recorded in English around 1640, though mills had been widely used in the British Isles since the medieval period and appeared in many different cultures of antiquity before that, including ancient China, ancient Rome and ancient Persia. Mille arrives around 1390, formerly mylne meaning an enclosed place. This additional meaning of pound still exists today in reference to animal shelters. Originally ponde only referred to an artificially created body of water. In May 2017 the city of Astoria officially dedicated

the water feature of Mill Pond Village as the DeMuro Mill Pond to honor the late Art DeMuro, the founder of Venerable Properties, who was instrumental in spearheading the rebirth of the blighted property with an eye toward sustainable, environmentally sound architecture.

“Palmberg Construction company, Astoria, will begin dredging out the millpond to a depth of four feet below mean low water next week, using a specially-built pipeline suction dredge that has just been completed.

The pond, long used by a sawmill that formerly occupied the plywood mill site, has been silting up for years and is now dry except at high tide.”

—“Plywood Mill Opening Near: Astoria Project Makes Progress,” The Sunday Oregonian, May 6, 1951, P. 26

“Lasting evidence of DeMuro’s attachment to Astoria was his request to have his ashes deposited in the mill pond.”

—“Editor’s Notebook: Mill Pond rose from the ashes of the Astoria Plywood Coop,” The Daily Astorian, Friday, May 6, 2016

“The Astoria Co-Op Grocery has signed a lease to build a new store on the site of the former Astoria Plywood Cooperative at the corner of 23rd Street and Marine Drive.

The new location in Mill Pond, at more than 11,000 square feet, will increase the co-op’s retail footprint from 2,100 to 7,500 square feet and is expected to nearly triple the current staff of 25.”

—Edward Stratton, “Astoria Co-op Grocery finds a new location,” The Daily Astorian, Wednesday, May 31, 2017 CW

Wild SIDE

DRAGONFLY

By LYNETTE RAE
McADAMS
FOR COAST WEEKEND

All across the globe, on every continent save Antarctica, wherever there is water, there are also dragonflies.

Strange and beautiful, these unique insects, whose species number more than 7,000, all belong to the scientific orders Odonata and Anisoptera, meaning, “toothed, with an uneven wing.”

Beloved by humans, these striking, colorful fliers have inhabited Earth for at least 300 million years — plenty of time, apparently, to perfect their charms while honing their survival skills.

Compared to most other flying insects, whose wings hinge on a single muscle, dragonflies are highly specialized instruments of flight. With four iridescent appendages attached along the thorax to four individual muscles, they have nearly perfect control of their maneuverability, cruising through the air in all six directions, at speeds up to 30 mph. Their added ability to hover perfectly, for seemingly endless lengths of time, has made them the envy of aeronautic engineers the world over.

As well adapted as they are to the skies, it comes as some surprise that very little of a dragonfly’s life is actually lived on the wing.

Hatched from an egg, it gets its start as a nymph, spending up to two years in the water before making its fated, primordial crawl toward land. Emerging from the natal pond, it takes a few moments to adapt to the air, and then, with a sudden



PHOTO BY DAVID O'BRIEN

Southern Hawker Dragonfly

forcefulness, its exoskeleton cracks in half and a fully formed dragonfly unfurls itself from the wreckage.

Once emancipated — its fresh new wings primed with blood and oxygen — a young dragonfly’s first step turns quickly into a first flight, and for the rest of its short life, which can last from several weeks to several months, it will hardly ever stop flying.

Even while eating, a dragonfly can remain in flight. One of nature’s most successful predators, with a 95-percent kill rate and a sophisticated taste for other flying bugs, it snatches its victims mid-air, holding them tight with its legs, then crushing and devouring them with a set of jagged, vice-like mandibles.

Fortunately for humans, such terrifying traits are lessened when they come from something as small as a modern dragonfly, but consider this: Fossilized records of this creature’s ancient forbears show they once had

a wingspan of almost 30 inches.

Equally as impressive as its wings are Odonata’s eyes. With 30,000 facets each, they encompass almost the entire head, offering the insect nearly 360 degrees of visibility. Additionally, extra specialized, light-sensitive proteins in the eye help enrich a dragonfly’s perception of the world. While our eyes also contain such proteins, called opsins, we have only three, and see all colors as a combination of red, blue and green. Dragonflies, however, have up to 30 opsin in each eye, and visualize colors we can’t begin to imagine.

Culturally, dragonflies have long been perceived as having magical, spiritual properties, and are a symbol of good luck and self-actualized metamorphosis. In China and Japan, parts of the dragonfly are still used by practitioners of traditional medicine. In Indonesia, adult fliers are caught by hand, then deep fried in hot oil and served as a delicacy. CW

The 14th Annual Cannon Beach Cottage & Garden Tour

THREE-DAY EVENT
SEPTEMBER 8TH - 10TH, 2017

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

6:00 p.m. Kicks off with concert & reception featuring Kelsey Mousley. Refreshments by Sweet Charity at Cannon Beach Chamber Hall (207 North Spruce Street) **Tickets \$15**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

12:00 p.m. Luncheon by Sweet Charity & Lecture by Dr. Doug Deur at the Cannon Beach Chamber Hall. **Tickets \$25**

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Home & Garden Tour of north Cannon Beach. **Tickets \$35**

6:00 p.m. Thistle & Rose Concert & Reception (Fall raffle takes place at this time (included in cost of Home & Garden Tour ticket))

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

11:00 a.m. Garden Tea & presentation by Dawn Hummel. Takes place at Cannon Beach Chamber Hall. **Tickets \$20**

Weekend packages are \$75 with discounts for members
Advance ticket purchases recommended

For tickets call 503-436-9301 or visit www.cbhistory.org

