

# Celebrating the wonder of trout



**DENNIS DAUBLE**  
THE NATURAL WORLD

The morning chill hinted of autumn. An abrupt change of season seemed unlikely, however, after two weeks of 100-degree temperatures. Yesterday's brief rainfall — the first in over two months — settled the dust, but failed to bring relief to a drought-suffering landscape.

I stand on the side porch of our family's cabin and watch a pair of rufous hummingbirds take turns sipping from a bright red feeder. Activity has dropped off since early July when as many as eight birds battled for position on a daily basis. "Sugar water is their cocktail," Mom once said. "They mostly eat insects."

A light breeze pushes the lingering odor of smoke up the canyon and rustles dried stalks of mullein weed that line the fence. Shadows form as the sun rises slowly over the Umatilla River. A white cabbage butterfly, flight muscles sufficiently warmed to achieve launch mode, flutters in a sunlit opening. Quail twitter deep in the brush where I scattered bird seed yesterday.

This weekend marks a fifth trip in two months dedicated to rebuilding the bunkhouse. The aged structure took in three feet of water during the great flood of February 2019, but cleanup was put on hold while we worked to restore the main cabin. Three sections of the bunkhouse floor were cut out, mud-soaked insulation removed for disposal, and old-growth Douglas-fir flooring replaced to make the structure habitable for our grandchildren and the occasional overnight visitor.

Today will be dedicated to fishing, though. All work and no play makes for a dull boy and the boy inside this 70-year-old man desperately wants to feel cool water swirl around his ankles while he tosses flies at wild trout. This new normal of mandated social distance, masking in public places, and combat-

ive politics need not compromise the amount of time a person spends fishing. However, current "hoot owl" regulations require I get off the water by 2 p.m.

With the dusty gravel road to the Forks Campground closed, I park my truck downstream of Corporation Guard, weave through a thicket of ripe elderberry and senescent ocean spray, avoid fresh bear scat and a patch of stinging nettle, high step through an empty overflow channel, and climb over downed cottonwood to reach the river.

A long, wide, flat stretch of water greets. Boulders the size of washtubs remain turned on edge after epic flood waters ravished the river channel and associated riparian corridor. Once great holes, where swift current crested against impassable bedrock walls, bull trout lurked, and school-age children swam, are filled shallow with loose cobble and gravel.

Further downstream, a sentinel line of boulders forces the river toward an undercut bank with overhanging alder. A small branched log creates a back eddy. I wade across a riffle not so swift nor slick to require a wading stick and crouch low with the sun at my back. An exploratory cast to the tongue of the pool yields the aggressive splash of a hungry trout. A second cast leads to hooking a pan-size trout I turn loose.

Three more trout, ranging from 7 to 10 inches long, rise to the fly before I exit the pool. The largest one, half of the daily two-trout limit in these waters, is slipped into the right mesh pocket of my fly vest for 97-year-old Mom. Her caregiver will fry it up for dinner.

When nearby pocket pools fail to yield even a 5-inch trout I hike upstream over sun-bleached rocks to a turbulent run in the shade of moss-covered bedrock. My No. 10 Royal Stimulator smacks the surface like a grasshopper that failed to pull off a six-point landing and is immediately taken down. Some strikes require quick reflexes. This one goes in the no-brainer category. It turns out to be the largest and most vivid trout of the day. Dark speckles across the width



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

Native redband trout are feisty and eagerly rise to a fly in the middle of the day.



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

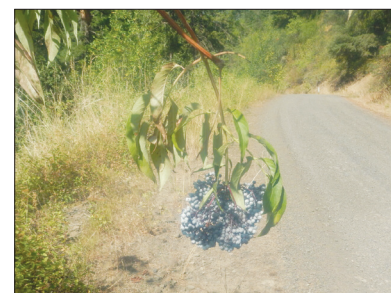
Where good holding water exists, a pan-size trout or two can be found.

of its broad flanks; crimson stripe along the lateral line; gill plates a blush of rose. I snap a picture as it rests gasping in the shallows, nudge it gently with the toe of my wading sandal, and watch it shoot like a rocket to the safety of deep water.

Holding water remains sparse. It may be years before this and other Blue Mountain streams return to their former glory. But where adequate depth and cover exists, trout are found. Large pools hold juvenile spring chinook salmon, as evidenced by a gold flash made

when they grab at my fly. Deeper-bodied than trout of the same length, this year's hatch of baby salmon will remain until spring snowmelt and associated rising flow hastens their journey to the Columbia River and eventually the Pacific Ocean. A larger fly is favored so as to not hook these 3-inch foretellers of a 12-pound adult.

More than one trout nosed my fly and did not return. Others ignored offerings when a tiny ball of algae clung to the head of the fly. You could say they were hungry, but not desperate. Small stream fly fish-



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

Ripe elderberries are available for making jelly or for black bears to gobble down.

ing is rarely a case of match-the-hatch or observing the nature of a rise form. You start with a pattern that has worked well in the past and use it until it no longer attracts, gets chewed up, or is lost because of an errant cast.

Journal notes show 32 trout hooked and released in two hours of fishing. On a fine summer morning with no other angler in sight. Without a care in the world. I guess that's why I revel in the wonder of trout.

*Dennis Dauble is a retired fishery scientist, outdoor writer, presenter and educator who lives in Richland, Washington. For more stories about outdoor adventure, including fish and fishing in area waters, see DennisDauble-Books.com.*

## EASTERN OREGON marketplace

Place classified ads online at [www.eastoregonianmarketplace.com](http://www.eastoregonianmarketplace.com) or call 1-800-962-2819 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, leave a voicemail and we'll confirm your ad the next business day. Email us at [classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com) or fax: 541-278-2680

Deadline is 3 p.m. the day before publication

We accept:

211 S.E. Byers Ave.  
Pendleton, OR 97801

333 E. Main St.  
Hermiston, OR 97838

See [www.eastoregonianmarketplace.com](http://www.eastoregonianmarketplace.com) for classified ads from all over Eastern Oregon

**EAST OREGONIAN • HERMISTON HERALD • BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE • WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN**

### 360 Garage Sales

(Covid Skipped, last Year) - Auction Junkie - Mega Yard Sale - Today and Every Day Until End Of August - You Really DO NOT Want to Miss This One. I Will be Putting Out More Stuff Daily. @ 81229 PATERSON FERRY ROAD In IRRIGON. We are 3 Miles West of Irrigon - 1 1/2 Miles North of hwy 730 on Paterson Ferry Road. Follow These Signs Starting in Irrigon. Need Better Directions or Questions about What is Here Call Harold 541 922-2510 or cell 541 314-3528

You Want it it is Here - You can spend Hours Checking this out and I am Putting more stuff out all the time.

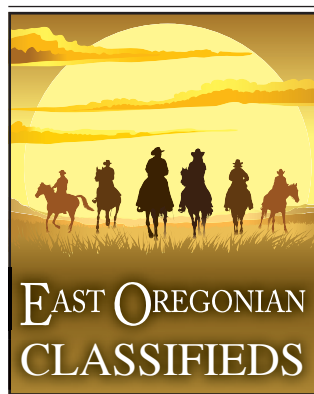
Jewelry, Air Conditioners, Tools (Power, Hand Tools), Knives, Fishing, Hunting, Sports Equipment, Kitchen(Appliances, Pots, Pans, Dishes, Canning Jars & Tools), Clothes, 20' Pole Barn Kit, 1928 Willys 4 dr. Coup, Antiques and collectibles of all kinds, 10 Flat Screen TV's, Electronics, Building materials, Clothes Washer & Dryer, Kitchen Tables and chairs, Dressers, Beds, Curio Cabinets, NASCAR Collectibles including Jimmie Johnson & Kasey Kane Team leather Jackets, New Wedding Dress, 18" Jeep Tires and Wheels Lastly the largest Number of Music CD's and DVD Movies you will ever find in a Yard Sale \$1.25 Each but if you buy 5 or More All are \$1Clothes, Collectibles, Furniture, Household Items, Antiques, Tools, Toys. 81229 Paterson Ferry Road, Irrigon. August 8 Thru September 6; 8 to 5

**BUY IT! SELL IT!**  
**FIND IT!**  
EAST OREGONIAN  
**CALL**  
**1-800-962-2819**

### 502 Real Estate

How Much is your Home Worth? Call Matt Vogler, The Weekend and After Hours Realtor, for a free Market Analysis. 541.377.9470. More Listings needed to meet current buyer demand!

**Matt Vogler**  
**John J. Howard & Assoc.**  
(541) 377-9470



**EAST OREGONIAN CLASSIFIEDS**

**You can find your dream home**

Check out our Real Estate Listings in the Classifieds

EAST OREGONIAN

**Get Your Class Ad Today!**

### 502 Real Estate

541-377-6855  
A phone call Away! Help to find the home for you with access to all possible homes on your list. Please call with your questions for the answers to help you into your new home.

305 SW Court Ave., Pendleton  
**TURN HERE**  
**REALTY & TRAVEL**

### 504 Homes for Sale

**What is on your Real Estate WISHLIST?**  
Call Kerry at 541-377-6855 for all your Real Estate needs.

**TURN HERE**  
**REALTY & TRAVEL**

**There are limited homes available in our market and I have buyers!**  
Call Kerry at 541-377-6855 to sell your home with  
**TURN HERE**  
**REALTY & TRAVEL**

Prices are up! Now may be the time to gain some equity and move up to a larger home. Call Matt Vogler for a free Market Analysis.

**Matt Vogler**  
**John J. Howard & Assoc.**  
(541) 377-9470

**Low Interest Rates**  
Connections with Financing... Choices with homes to suit you... Please call or Text 541-377-6855 or Email Kerry at kjcbaird@gmail.com  
**TURN HERE**  
**REALTY & TRAVEL**

**CALL 1-800-962-2819 to advertise here!**

Current MLS listings include several 3 and 4 bedroom, 2 bath homes for sale in popular locations. Call Matt Vogler, "The Weekend and After Hours Realtor" for addresses and pricing.  
**Matt Vogler**  
**John J. Howard & Assoc.**  
541.377.9470

### 504 Homes for Sale

\$141,000  
4.31 acres just outside of town. Great view lot. **Kevin 541-969-8243c. #21435710**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

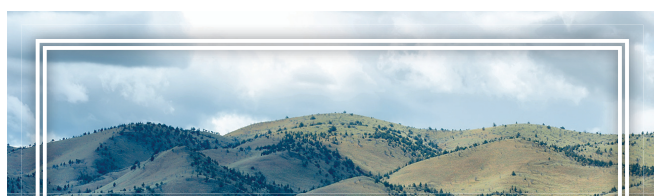
How Much is your Home Worth? Call Matt Vogler, The Weekend and After Hours Realtor, for a free Market Analysis. 541.377.9470. More Listings needed to meet current buyer demand!

**Matt Vogler**  
**John J. Howard & Assoc.**  
(541) 377-9470

\$85,710  
2.14 acres zoned R2. Utilities available in street. Buyers to do their due diligence. **Marsha 541-377-5152c. #20455047**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

**Classified Ads work hard for you!**



**EAST OREGONIAN**

**Advertise here!**  
**1-800-522-0255**

### 504 Homes for Sale

\$209,000  
**GREAT OPPORTUNITY!** New roof, new exterior paint, nice floorplan. North Hill location. Covered back porch, fenced yard. Cash or conventional financing only. **Jef 541-969-9539c. #21520096**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

\$269,000  
**Well-kept 1662sf(m/l) home with many updates!** 1 level, 3 bedrooms, and 2 baths. Covered patio plus a deck. Wonderful backyard with garden area, tool shed. **Cari 541-377-5058c. #21379824**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

**YOUR DREAM HOME** is right here in the Classifieds! Check our real estate listings.

### 504 Homes for Sale

\$165,000 UKIAH  
Furnished duplex, 3 lots. Each unit: 2 bed 1 bath, woodstove with supplemental baseboard heat. Hunter retreat or a get away from crowds and traffic. **Jerry 541-969-6378c. #20284159**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

\$165,000  
**Pilot Rock property can be subdivided.** Buyer to do due diligence for permits and utilities. Currently 4 tenants rent spots for their manufactured homes. **Marsha 541-377-5152c. #21460475**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

\$389,999  
**Breathtaking Views/Immaculate Home!** Expansive kitchen, large family room w/impressive views from deck and dining area. 3bedrooms. Private workshop, UGS, hot-tub, storage, playhouse. **Jason 541-760-6842c. #19250831**

**Coldwell Banker**  
**Farley Company**  
541-276-0021

### 619 Commercial



Stand alone commercial office for rent in Boardman, Oregon. Approx. 2400 sq. ft. Located at 251 N.E. Eldridge Dr. on Columbia Ave. Large parking area. Boardman, OR. 541-276-5372.

Call for your classified ad today! 800-962-2819