

Row River Nature Park hosts a Pond Party

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Superb spring weather, combined with the recent stocking by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife of 1500 hatchery-raised rainbow trout, made the pond at Row River Nature Park in Cottage Grove a local hotspot last week.

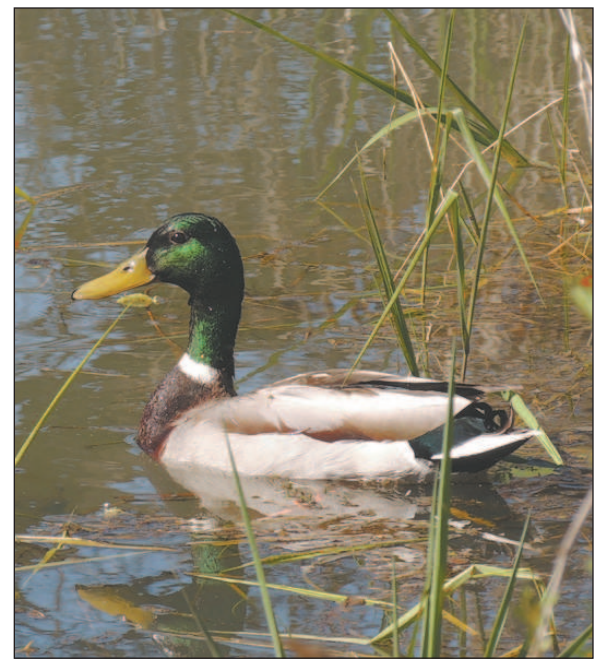
Fishermen and women crowded the banks at the pond throughout the week, particularly in the evenings, though mornings were also a busy time. As is often the case with hatchery-raised fish, those hoping to catch their dinner sometimes cycled through several bait op-

tions to find the one that worked most that day, and fly anglers joined those with spinning and other tackle in trying to fill a stringer. The ospreys perched overhead, however, showcased their own fishing technique, diving headlong toward the lake and, with a splash that sounded like a fifth-grader being thrown into the water, pouncing on the unwary fish below.

According to Katherine Nordholm with ODFW, the pond will be stocked with an additional 2000 fish this week in anticipation of the Family Fishing event set to take place there this Saturday, April 9. More information is available by contacting the Springfield ODFW office at 541-726-3515.



Persistence and skill paid off for these fishermen, who each left the pond with a limit of five hatchery-raised trout.



While popular with humans, the nature park is also the home to many nesting pairs of geese and ducks like this mallard drake.

Family fishing event
Saturday, April 9,
beginning at 9:30 a.m.



Canine friends accompanied many anglers.

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OFFBEAT

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all over the state and talking to doddering pioneers and Native Americans, saving dozens of stories from the early 1800s from vanishing forever.

After Henry had squandered with hopeful recklessness all his Navy money, Fuller Victor took a job writing for Hubert Howe Bancroft. Bancroft blithely appropriated all her unpublished research and put her to work as a contract writer, creating what should have been her life's masterwork to be published under his name. She resented it bitterly, but it was, in a real sense, the price of her life; she and Henry were now separated, and she had to support herself somehow.

Fuller Victor lived just long enough to still be alive when Oregon's historical community belatedly realized what a treasure she had given it. In 1899 she was named an honorary founding member of the Oregon Historical Society, and the Oregonian conferred the title of "Mother of Oregon History" upon her in 1901. She died the following year.

Bethenia Owens-Adair, M.D.

First female physician in the West Coast states, 1840-1926

Bethenia Owens-Adair's life story is straight out of a Horatio Alger novel. Married at 14 to an amazingly lazy man, she tolerated him for four years before taking their two-year-old son and moving out. Then, after returning to school, Bethenia worked her way up from nothing, taking whatever grueling piecework jobs she could get and saving every nickel she could. After half a dozen years of this, she had enough money tucked away to start a dressmaking and millinery business in Roseburg. By the time her son was ready for college, she was making enough money to send him off to the University of California at Berkeley.

She was now a successful businesswoman, and most people in her position would have stopped there. Not Bethenia. In 1870, she headed east to a college of "Eclectic Medicine." A year later, she was Dr. Bethenia Owens.

Again, she had reached a position where most people would have stopped. Again, she didn't. Eclectic medicine was not mainstream, but it had been the only program she could get into as a woman. To her, it was a stepping-stone to a "real" medical degree. After some trouble, she found a place at the University of Michigan, and in 1880 matriculated as, you might say, a

double doctor.

Owens-Adair's legacy today is tainted by her enthusiasm, as a physician, for eugenics and forced sterilization. It's entirely possible that without her advocacy, Oregon wouldn't have had a forced-sterilization program for Gov. John Kitzhaber to apologize for in 2002. But while we shouldn't minimize the harm that was done, eugenics was a respected and mainstream belief back in the Edwardian era, especially for physicians, and it's not really fair to judge her by our modern standard.

We'll continue this round-up of great women of Oregon history in next week's column.

(Sources: Aldrich, Myrna. "Oregon's First Woman Lawyer," With Her Own Wings, ed. Krebs, Helen. Portland: Beatie, 1948; Friedman, Ralph. In Search of Western Oregon. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton, 1990; Martin, Jim. A Bit of a Blue: The Life and Work of Frances Fuller Victor. Salem: Deep Well Pub., 1992)

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