## beane-ron-2015-07-20.mp4

**Ron Beane** [00:00:10] Well my story about fly fishing is something fly fishing is a passion of mine. And in that, I've always ever since I was a kid my grandfather is the one that really taught me how to fish. Had it not been for him and he started me when I was very young so my story is I want to do what he did. And I wanted to carry on what he started. And so when I fished with him, unfortunately, he passed away when I was 15 years old. And I felt like I lost and I had I lost my best friend I ever had up until that point. But after he passed away I still continued to fish not as much as I wanted to because I was away in college and working on my degree. And when I got through college I went back to the streams and started fly fishing. And then I had a chance through all these years I've had a chance to fish with some of the probably the best fly fishermen in this area. People who are renowned and are known for being master fly fishermen. And after I think about ten or eleven of those guys passed away that I fished with and I thought, you know I need to tell a story about these guys because if I don't they're gonna be lost to history. And so I got busy and started thinking about it. What really got me triggered into doing that I started collecting materials for it. But one of the guys that I had fished with he was dying of cancer. And I was visiting with him and I did almost every day visited him. And I was telling him we were reminiscing about people we had fished with. And then that the people that we fished with, I fish and I'm telling him that I've fished with some really good ones all over the country. Anyway, I was telling him about my thoughts on trying to compile a book. And he said to me and I've never forgotten this tell our story. And so that's how I wrote the book along with the help of the lady who's an author because I knew nothing about writing a book. And the lady that I got to help me knew nothing about fly fishing. So we became a great team. So my story is it started out as a passion and I got that passion from my grandfather. And I just carried on and picked up the mantle of where he left off and carried on. Hopefully, my son and my granddaughter who are both excellent fly fishermen are going to keep that mantle going.

**Jim** [00:02:54] And can go ahead and give us the title of the book just for the record.

**Ron Beane** [00:02:56] Well the title of the book is Fly Fisherman of Caldwell County North Carolina. And one of the guys that I've written about he said in his article that he had written, it's a book about 28 different fly fisherman and each one of those fishermen kind of told their own story. And then we had a format that we wanted to go by and let them tell the story. But one of the stories in there by one of the guys that we wrote about he said, living in it and he's a banker he said, "living in Caldwell County and not being a fly fisherman is akin to living on the lake and not owning the boat." And that's true. Since we've written some of the book has been written I have a number of people probably 10 or 20 people say we didn't write about so-and-so. And we've said you know well maybe there'll be a number two and then we'll probably start working on that right away.

**Ron Beane** [00:04:05] Well probably develop a passion for wanting to fly fish. Don't be afraid to fish with people who are better than you are, because that's the way you learn. One of the things I've always said I was my fly casting and was self-taught. But I had fish with some people and watched them fish but I never had anyone to give me any instruction on how to cast. The most important thing that I learned and this is what I would pass on to a young person or anyone starting out. Is get with someone to help you learn how to read the water. Reading the water is one of the most important things in fly fishing. Knowing where the fish are going to be feeding and where they lay and swim.

**Ron Beane** [00:05:03] A person I like in a fishing partner is people who share. You know sometimes you fish with people who sort of hoggish in other words they want to stay ahead of you in the stream they don't want you to get ahead of them. And I'm always trying to be one of those people that I enjoy fishing with people who respect the water who respect the environment. And I like to fish with people who and I've done this about all my life is to catch and Release. You know I kept very few fish in my lifetime even the big ones that I sort of turned back in. So I would say that get with someone that sort of has the same values that you have and the same respect for the sport that you have.

**Ron Beane** [00:06:04] To me the biggest threat right now is the water. It's not protecting our waters. I was fortunate enough to serve in the North Carolina, we had a clean water management trust fund group and I served on that board for 10 years. Our main objective was to help small places do big things and protecting the water and protecting our resources. But in my opinion, the biggest threat is the pollution of our waters and our valuable resources that we now have we need to take care of that stuff. And I'm hoping the next generation is going to be even better at doing that than my generation.

**Ron Beane** [00:06:53] I think the thing that I've seen as gains or I think there are more women now fishing it used to be it was a man's sport.  Now I see women doing that. My granddaughter, for example, is 19 years old. When she was 2 years old she wanted to go with me and sit on my lap and I'll let her tie her first fly I've kept that first fly that she tied. Now she's 19 years old and when she goes fishing now she's fishing for the big and I've got a photograph of her with about a twenty-five- six-inch brown trout that she caught. But the gain to me is there are more people and there's more diversity in people who are now fishing then when I came along. Most of the people early on a when I came along they fished to put meat on the table. Now I see the gain is that there are more and more people who are fishing for the sport you know and they're the catch and release kind of people as I mentioned earlier. The lose that I've seen is not taking well the pollution of the streams and so forth. I see that as a real downfall and a real lose-lose situation if we don't take care of that then there's not going to be a fly fishing sport for people in fifty to a hundred years from now.

**Ron Beane** [00:08:28] In my book in the preface I think I said the fish that I like to fish for of course I like to fish for all of them. My favorite is the Brown trout and fishing for Brown trout is a feast or famine. They're either going to bite, they're going to hit, or they're not going to hit. So I put in my comments I'd like to fish in any stream that's noted for Brown trout.

**Ron Beane** [00:09:03] No not really because to me the Brook trout we have a few Brook trout here, but they can only survive in higher elevations. And elevations that the Brook and the  Rainbow can't get to. I don't know that ee could ever bring the Brooke trout right back you know the way it was at one time. Simply because of the Brook trout are pretty much meat for the Rainbow and the Brown trout. Whether or not they can come back I don't think so. Because we got too many where you'd have to kill out the whole stream. And you'd have to put in we had fish barriers at one time, in other words, everything above that barrier was something that had been put in there. And we'd gotten away from that the local wildlife commission they don't do that anymore. I wish the did that way you can sort of segment and have different segments of you got this kind of trout above this level. And then you got the rainbow and Brown in the level below that.

**Jim** [00:10:18] Yeah. One of the things Montana started doing a few years back was they'd stock non-native species in lakes that had been dead. But they will not stock stock-trout on top of wild trout anymore and it's worked out really well for the rivers there.

**Ron Beane** [00:10:34] That's good yeah that's good. The biggest problem with streams right now is sedimentation. And I think that's something we need to really kind of control that as much as we can. Because sedimentation doesn't permit them to lay their eggs so they can reproduce.

**Jim** [00:10:53] Yeah that and I'm not sure what things like fracking are going to do. I just don't know.

**Ron Beane** [00:11:00] That's a question that I posed in my mind too I don't know where that's going. I have some friends in Colorado that I fish and hunt with. Of course, they're very much opposed to the fracking there. Of course, they have a big oil base there. And especially you know if you have highway seventy down near Glenwood Springs they've done a lot of underground exploring for natural gas and those kinds of things. And it's created a problem.

**Ron Beane** [00:11:44] Well fishing here we've got some great streams. We don't have that many large strings but to me, I like it here because we are probably in one of the premier areas here in the south for good fly fishing. To me, that's special because I'm here you know I don't have to go cross country to fish but I have you know fish in some of those streams out west. What makes it special here is access being able to get to it.