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Marjorie Boggess [00:00:10] OK. Regular fishing like spin casting? Since I was wee little child. Went all over the place whenever we would stop, I would "let me fish, let me fish".

James Thull [00:00:22] So by we, you mean-.

Marjorie Boggess [00:00:25] My parents.

James Thull [00:00:30] Okay.

Marjorie Boggess [00:00:31] My parents were almost 40 when they adopted me. So they had the means to be able to go different places. Trailer. Motor home. And we traveled all over the place. We went to the Grand Canyon, we'd go to Yellowstone, Yosemite, New York all these historical sites. My sister was, 20 years ago before me. She went all European sites, cause he was, you know, stationed in Germany. I got to do the U.S. and wherever there was water I was always, 'can I have the rod? And can I go out and fish?' I wanted to fish. If we were at the coast and I didn't have anything, I would look down and find a hook. I'd find, you know, some, you know how you find, uh, line all over the place? Grab a hook, line, bacon, baloney whatever. Throw it over on the, and I would catch fish. I really really liked it. I've been married to my husband since 2008 and we met at a Renaissance fair. I do reenactments. He's a juggler, stage performer. But all our "vacation time" was spent at fair. 'We got to do something different. Let's do fishing we both like fishing.' He was doing spin cast fishing for three or four years and nothing, nothing, nothing. He's been, his fishing buddies said 'hey let's try this fly fishing Bogas and Spiffy went fly fishing, uh, class and Mark, the instructor for the club, said, 'Hey we're doing this outing you know, we do the (unintelligible) crawl every May', and Bogas he asked me if I wanted to go, and of course I want to go. So we went up, caught fish up in the Sequoias, broke his 3 year streak. So. That's what hooked us on fly fishing.

Marjorie Boggess [00:02:21] There's so much to learn. It's not: here's a hook, here's a lure. Don't just cast, you know? There's learning about the ecosystems. You've got, I had no idea. I know I sound stupid, but I had no idea that these little bugs lived most of their life under the water. And the reason why you have hordes of flies is because they're hatching. And they're only up there a day a week and then they go. And. Had no idea. I'm almost 50 years old and I did not know this. So learning about the... Insects learning about the different kinds of fish. Learning about the different ways. How to fish, how to approach them. And then tying. And tying is a lot of fun. It appeals to my need to make things so I really like the tying. Plus, the conservation aspect of it. We... Never really had it explained because... and spending time with the guys in the club has helped us to understand. There's not enough fish growing in all these waters to feed everybody as much as they need to, you know, so you need to put them back. you need to catch them and let them go back. It's been really educational, like I said. The club that we have been with is really amazing. So.

Marjorie Boggess [00:04:00] That was awesome. I'd been doing a lot of tying and Bogas. My husband really, he doesn't tie. He lifts heavy things and I do tying with my little monkey hands and I tie. So he likes catching fish on my flies. I like catching fish on my flies. And yes I have caught fish on flies I tied, and that's a lot of fun.

James Thull [00:04:23] What, do you remember the first time you did it? Was it....

Marjorie Boggess [00:04:25] Probably had to be one of my rainbow hippies, flame tail hippies. Out at the ponds up in Three Rivers. So yeah I came up with. When I first started tying I was like 'I need tying materials.' But, in this little town we didn't have anywhere to get "official fly tying materials." So I trotted down to Joannes and 'oh look and rainbow boa. Awesome.' So I grabbed that and used rainbow colors to make the, it's kind of like a woolly bugger but it's got rainbow colors and stuff and because it's a rainbow and it's red I call it a flame tail hippie.

Marjorie Boggess [00:05:14] Absolutely essential. There has to be somewhere where the wee beasties of the land, the trees, the grass and everything has to be preserved. I mean, there, a balance has to be struck but there needs to be this set aside that is, 'this is nature.' It has to be managed properly. Otherwise you get wildfires which are horrible. Controlled burns are necessary to save Giant Sequoias. But. You have to have these areas that are restricted. That are maintained that are, so that. When I have kids. Oh, I have kids, but when my kids have kids. We can take them up and say 'hey this is. Look at how the river comes through. Look at how you've got this ecosystem you've got these bugs here that feed the trout that feed the, you know, the feed the people, feed the bears, that feed...' It's. They have to see the whole.. How everything is interdependent. Nothing is its own island. Everything is: this affects this, affects this. Just like the people that built the dams and wanted to keep this area from flooding didn't realize that it's going to jack up our aquifers. The area here, this valley, has experienced a lot of subsidence because our aquifers where we get our water, have been so heavily pumped because we're sending all our water to L.A. They dammed them up, they plowed and they farmed an area that used to be known as Tule Lake. It was a huge lake and it's not there anymore. The lake would be seasonal because it would, you know, you'd have the melt water it would fill up it would get bigger. It would absorb, it would evaporate. Since it's not there anymore we don't have the fog like we used to. It's impacted the weather because it's a source of moisture, moisture forms clouds, forms rain. It's really had a lot bigger impact. Yeah. We don't get the floods like we used to which is good. You know that's a blessing. But it's really had an impact on the weather. People don't realize, 'yes let's dam this river.' They don't realize it's going to have an impact 50, 60, 70, 80 years down the road where the land is now sunk because these underground aquifers have been drained and they can't get really filled backup. They can get somewhat recharged but once they collapse? Can't fill them back up. And so... You need to have the set asides. So that it doesn't happen in those areas. That it's not disappeared after our generation goes. That my grandchildren, great-grandchildren can continue to visit, enjoy it, see the trees and be amazed at everything that they can look at and touch and see and go 'wow this tree is like. Older than. Britain history it's crazy.' So. Yeah. Truly important.

Marjorie Boggess [00:08:41] Absolutely. Because if someone never learns to drive they're not going to be an advocate for an automobile. For anything to do with that. They have to see it. It has to be made important to them to grow up with it. One of the things that our club helps with is Trout in The Classroom. I don't know if you're familiar with that program at all?

James Thull [00:09:02] A little bit. Can you tell me a little bit about what you do with it and the name of your club?

Marjorie Boggess [00:09:06] Our club is Kaweah Fly Fishers and we. What happens is. It's a voluntary program. The teacher wants to get involved. That we just had the informational meeting for instructors that want to get involved with it. It's for the primary grades. And a teacher that wants to do it gets, signs up for it, learns about it. They get an

aquarium in their classroom. They get trout eggs or in some different areas they'll get salmon eggs and-- I believe salmon eggs-- and the kids get to see the eggs hatch. To the little [unintelligible] and then they get bigger, and watch and grow. And they get big enough they take them out to a local area, they release them and, depending on where they are, there's programs like about the area where they're releasing them. And our club will also go out with the kids and do some instruction on fly fishing and show them, 'hey, this is what goes on,' and teach them 'hey we've put these in here and this is what their life cycle happens,' and, you know, you grab a branch and show them like the Caddis Flies that are stuck to the branch and say 'this is what they'll eat. They don't eat algae they eat the bugs they eat the other things like that, like they're obligate carnivores' and we teach them about what that means and how they're not going to eat bushes, they've gotta eat bugs. So.

Marjorie Boggess [00:10:49] I didn't fish there, but--My parents shook their heads-- we showed up at The Grand Canyon in the middle of the day. The Grand Canyon, while deep, while amazing is not as vivid as the pictures that you see of the Grand Canyon. Because they're always taken at sunset or sunrise. Where the, the they're a lot redder, a lot brighter, a lot more vivid. So it was kind of a let down. But when I got to Mount Rushmore? It was amazing! These great big giant man-carved heads in the middle of you know South Dakota it was crazy. I loved seeing that. Favorite parks though...? Kings Canyon. That's my house. That's my home. I love that place. Zala campground. And. Every summer we went there, we hung out there, it was great. And you start driving up there, once you start getting around the sequoias, you can smell it. And it's like it takes you back to when you were a small child because this is that, because olfactory just like gets past everything and it brings, and it evokes, like amazing memories when you were a kid when you're climbing on rocks and having a blast. Yeah.

Marjorie Boggess [00:12:11] My husband and I will be going to Kamchatka, because that's where he wants to go, if we win the lottery. He's already said it so. Yep. We're getting, flying around in one of those old Russian aircraft and uh.

James Thull [00:12:22] Fish for the Tiamen there? Or, what would you fish for?

Marjorie Boggess [00:12:25] I'm not really sure but he's absolutely fascinated with Kamchatka so, and I've seen a few of the videos. He'll be watching videos and I'm doing, making my jewelry and stuff. But yeah. We'll do Kamchatka. And then I want to go to Iceland? And do some of the salmon over there. Like to do some, like, see if we can't get some old school English fly fishing going on. Different areas. Just if we won the lottery? We'd go all over the place. Would not stop. Go down to Spanish, or go down South America, practice my Spanish. Everywhere. We would be everywhere.

Marjorie Boggess [00:13:16] No, Just trout. Bluegill! But not...done trout, done bluegill. I am not a lake girl. I like streams. I like wading. I like climbing over rocks.

Marjorie Boggess [00:13:37] Absolutely. It really wouldn't be that fun fishing in a gymnasium. No matter how good they fought. Fishing in a mall might be interesting just for the novelty of it. But other than that [laughs]. It's, it's the location it's where it is. If you're... It's the trees. It's the, just the smell of everything. It's the water, you're pushing against the water. And you're sore the next day because got a workout. It's like 'Hey I didn't have to be in a sweaty gym with a bunch of people. I got to be on the river, and I get to see the beautiful blue sky, and look at these awesome flowers, and take great pictures for my Instagram.' So. Yeah. It's about being outside. It's not. The fish are fun. And it's really fun to fool them. But almost as important is to be outside.

Marjorie Boggess [00:14:40] Well, yeah. There's always concerns. You share with your friends, you share with your family. You donate to Trout Unlimited, you donate to, um...poof out of my head... Cal Trout. You become members. Um. You explain to your friends at work. Why you catch and release. You explain to your friends at work 'Hey guys. You know all the bugs on the on the river?' 'Yeah?' 'That's because they're just hatching, they spend most...' You know you go around and you tell people things, you educate. I'm more of a person that shares anecdotes with people. I don't. And kind of gently nudges people in to realizations. And I donate, like I said, money to Cal Trout and to Trout Unlimited so that they can do their projects because they do things they do... I don't know all the projects. But the people that we've interacted with from those two organizations have shown things that look like they will make a positive benefit. Not necessarily right here. But if they can do their project here, see good results then maybe they can bring it to us later. Have better results.

Marjorie Boggess [00:16:10] So... During that one trip that we went to Grand Canyon and then we went to Mt. Rushmore. I was about...11? Probably? 10 or 11. And I was not fly fishing I was spin. And we stopped on the bank of Yellowstone Lake. And It was a little bit overcast and lots of clouds and I'm like 'hey! Can I go out there and fish?' And they're like, 'Yeah you can go out there and fish.' So I'm out there. Just casting. There's some wind going on and still casting, casting. Then it starts to rain. Put my hood up. Casting, casting. Then it starts hailing. My dad's 'aren't you going to come in?' 'No, I'm fishing.' And right about then I caught a nice lovely trout or at least I think it was a trout, like that you know, you know, pulled it in. And that was great.

James Thull [00:17:01] Probably a Yellowstone Cutthroat.

Marjorie Boggess [00:17:03] Yes. It was lovely. It was lovely. I didn't keep it. You know took the hook out and sent him and on his merry way. But, yeah. That was probably my favorite is: fishing in the hail when I'm eleven, twelve years old and my parents saying 'do you want to come in?' "No! No, I'm out here, I'm fishing leave me alone.'

Marjorie Boggess [00:17:26] New anglers: there's a lot of people saying that their way's the right way and it's not. There's a lot of different ways to do things. If it doesn't work one way, maybe find somebody else to explain it. Get a fishing buddy that is helpful. And go to a casting class, learn to cast accurately. Learn.... Oh, the other thing. The most expensive equipment is not going to make you a better fisher. I really, really need to get that across to everybody. You can go out there with a little hundred dollar kit, if you've been taught, you know, good, solid casting. If you ,you can go out there with a hundred dollar kit and have a great time. You don't need a two or three thousand dollar rod. If you have been an angler for a while, and you have a particular need for a particular kind of rod and... Then rock on. Go ahead. But you don't need it. It's not absolutely necessary. More equipment is not going to make you a better angler. Time on the water is going to make you a better angler. Going out in your backyard, or in the street and casting practice is gonna make you a better angler. Not buying expensive equipment. Yeah. That's. And there's no, there's no, there's no have-tos. There are some suggestions! But there's not, I mean, you have to follow the fishing laws. And those are laws. But my husband has really good result nymphing with streamers. He uses an indicator with a streamer. But he's using indicator and weights and fishing it like most people do nymphs. And catches fish that way. You don't have to... Just keep trying. Just keep trying, and trying, and trying, and trying. And if your line is a tangled mess, stop. Untangle your line, get sorted, and then go. But biggest is: time on the water. Practice. Get out there and fish. Go to, find a local pond. Find a golf

course that's willing to let you, casting practice. Somewhere. But you have to practice. That's, like I said, that will make you better angler not better equipment.

Marjorie Boggess [00:20:16] For us, sobriety. If you're on water, if, because we're fishing we'll hit the lower Kings and they're both 6'2. On me... You know, here on them, is like here on me. I need to be, like I said, some people like to tittle but that's, that's their own business. But, um. Maybe... Someone who likes kind of the same things you do. And, like, we go with Dave Harris a lot. Dave knows most of the local places and he's probably on the water way more than he's not. And he's really helpful to us. He's a good teacher. He's patient. That's good for newbies. Once you get some experience under your belt, have somebody that doesn't run off and leave you stranded somewhere. Reliable, dependable. Somebody that has similar music taste as you if you're going the same direction for a long period of time. Reliable, dependable, and... Yeah that's kind of... Reliable, dependable, and not... What's that word? Someone who can compromise. Like, if you go to somebody, like who has it in their head they want to go to Spot A. But once you get to Spot A there's 20 anglers there, already. Okay, you're going to have to go to Option B. But if this person is not willing to compromise and wants to be out there, you're not gonna. You know. Somebody that is able to say 'OK let's try something else.' You know? Flexibility? Maybe?

James Thull [00:22:10] Sure.

Marjorie Boggess [00:22:10] At least in my head of having a year, almost and a half experience. So. I may not have the best idea of what a good angler buddy is but that, that's what works for me.

Marjorie Boggess [00:22:29] OK. If... It kind of has to happen? If it's to continue. And I know this is weird coming from a woman. Maybe not, you have to get, it has to be seen, not as an old white dudes club. I don't care who else is in a club, if I want to do that activity, but that's me. And I'm kind of. And I'm. I don't notice a lot of things that other people do. I think... But yeah. For it to continue, you have to have everybody see it as a sport because if it's just... This little group here is doing it and these people feel like they can't do it. It's not going to, as numbers change? It's gonna fade away. I think if it was perceived more as a family sport? Something that a mom and a dad did with their kids, the more people with, more families did it, it would be passed on and people saw it as something that everybody does together. Not just 'these people go out.' The other perception. I don't know, necessarily, men, women race, or otherwise. But it's perceived to be a sport of, like, the elite. If that was changed, we would have more people doing it. For women, like I said, it's got to be a family sport, or they have to see other women doing it. And not just in fly fishing magazines. I've noticed this. Probably.... I've been going through, like, older issues and probably since 2014, 2015 there have been a lot of women angling in general magazines. You see pictures of women fishing. And see pictures of men fishing, not just all men. I don't know if you know about Dun magazine?

James Thull [00:24:42] Doesn't ring a bell.

Marjorie Boggess [00:24:42] New magazine! Jen Ribel is the editor. She was wanting, she wrote a fly fishing article, wanted to submit it to a woman's fly fishing magazine and there were none. So she made one. And they have several years worth of online articles. And she just had her second print one come out. They're mailing the copies out on the 15th of this month. So there's a magazine that's now for women. But if, maybe like in the media? Not necessarily, not news media, but like: TV show has a family that goes and fly fishes, or like in a movie. You know, it's seen as just something people do. Then it would

maybe have more... Acceptance. More, more of a broader... And then teach people why we catch and release. I fish, I talk to people at work who fish, they're usually men. And they just get this puzzled look on their face. 'Why do you let them go? Wego out there to get dinner.' I'm like, 'No no that's not. We go out there because it's sport, because it's fun.' I think it might be easier to get hikers and backpackers to do fly fishing than it would be to convert spin casters who've done it their whole lives. Who are used to bringing home a stringer full of fish and catching their limit, to try fly fishing. And getting into that catch-and-release idea. I don't know. Maybe.

Marjorie Boggess [00:26:28] [cross talk] like I said, the cost of the equipment is, a pricier rod does not make it a better rod. Sales on equipment are good. Find somebody that actually knows how to cast well and can teach you how to cast accurately. And practice! Practice, practice. Presentation. Once you learn to cast properly that's part of resignation. Presentation is the whole thing. You have to learn how to get that fly to land in the water properly, so the fish will want to have lunch.