

## brackett-glenn-2016-02-06.mp4

**Glenn Brackett** [00:00:11] My father used to say, and he was a, he was unbelievable. That old, that old age of storytelling and he could fit a story into any conversation that it would it would just be as a showstopper. But he always said that and he lived almost 100. So we lived by stories. And he always said that the universe is not made up of atoms it's made up of stories, in there. As I've gotten older I've become I think better, more appreciative of what that, the value of story is. So yes there's a couple of stories that come to mind. One actually falls in line with your librarian duties like one of my first mentors was a librarian in college and I bummed around, during the summers I'd bum around all through the Rocky Mountains with him. Went to, went to college and in Arcadia, California at the University of Humboldt. And he was a librarian there. And he loved to fish. He fished a spinning rod. And basically you know I followed him with a fly rod. And we went everywhere. Up and down the Rocky Mountains and Montana, Wyoming, and parts of Idaho. And did some of course California right there at the college too there's a lot of water. So yes, he was he was very fun and fundamental to to. Putting me on the fishing to the right kind of fishing trail. Introducing me to books and in the library. And of course fishing, which was the most essential part of it. But there's two, there's a story that comes to mind about my granddaughter it kind of fits possibly that's why you know why fishing is so important to me or what what it means to me. I have a granddaughter who is six now. And she bums around with me, everywhere I go. And I hit the river to go fishing or swimming or skin diving or canoeing or whatever, she's right there and she's like just this last summer we were going up the small creek. A tributary to the Big Hole, and one of the things we do which you appreciate is we do see, tea ceremony. So she gets a pot of water out of the creek, and gets the fire going and puts the, finds the three rocks to put the kettle on, and in like you know gathers the materials. So she's here she's at, she's done this for a couple of years with me. So she's really, it's fun. It's almost like I am living my my childhood over again through her which is a beautiful thing for me because I I love. I spent an awful lot of time with children. So fire's going. Put the pot on. Boil the water. Listen to the pot do it's ...you know make its neat little noises. And then pour out the tea and serve it up. But she doesn't like tea. But she loves the Fig Newtons and the little Japanese candies. That compliment the whole tea ceremony, and so there's that. And she, it's just so pleasurable for me to sit there in that, that moment of. That peaceful moment with her. And she, watch her relate to you know what. What we're trying to experience together. Along the stream with the mountains around us, and the stream flowing by us and all that. You know the essence of all of the sounds and sites that are that are part of that. So that's. You know, one of the things that certainly I fall back on a lot, and kind of nails down and hopefully says something to to the question at hand, of what, you know what fishing really means to me. There's another area in the Big Hole also, another story about, about my granddaughter. This has been an ongoing thing for a couple of years but last year it really became something meaningful. Even more. She has a butterfly net. We go to this area on the Big Hole called the rock garden. And it's area of the big hole where there's these huge rocks that all been smoothed over by the river through time. They look very or they're very organic in nature, they look like seals, sea lions, you know small whales out there. And as the river gets lower, they expose themselves more and more and more, and of course that's when I usually take her down there, and she loves to crawl around on those and have little depressions out of them and let them have all these interesting characteristics to them. A little pooling, pools in them she'll fill the pools up, and she'll go out with her butterfly net and grab a couple of minnows and put them in there and look for frogs and snakes and you know that that's all very important stuff, and I get that it's stuff and helps to stop me from, from going out and just fishing for fishing sake. And see all the other things that, that pass me by, if I don't have a youngster with me. I think that's what I'm trying to

trying to say. That taking a youngster along greatly enhances the experience of fishing for me. And it always has, has and it always. It's never, never been anything less than that. So I take her every opportunity I can get in there and introduce her to my world and then slowly becoming her world to.

**James Thull** [00:06:51] That's wonderful. And I'm paraphrasing, I don't remember who said it. But an angling author wrote: maybe for me fishing was just an excuse to be near rivers. And if so I'm glad I thought of it. It's a great little quote.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:07:04] It is. And I think a wonderful case for that for. When I when I speak at various gatherings, and I always start off with something or end something like like what you're saying. But I say the fishing rod will always lead you to water. I don't care what it's made of. It's just. And it will always lead you to water in your mind too. I mean you, I hear people regularly say in the middle of winter they pull their rods out and they'll experience that that same thing that we're talking about that happens in person. In fact there's well, I got a letter from one of my customers years ago after the 9/11 experience, who lives right there in New York City. And he had that it is it is apartment building. Window window watching the whole. The whole. Twin Towers come down and close enough for the smells and hell everything right there in his face. He said at one point, that he, to really get himself kind of back together again, he took out one of our rods and he wrote me, what that meant to him. I thought that was, that hit it right on the nail on the nail for me. In fact I have that, still I have that card he wrote me, he wrote me that as a Christmas card that very same year. That was. That was very special. So those little things start to add up and there's that. Thing. Story. You start to build and build and build. Pretty soon you, when you end up stream side, and I fish an awful lot by myself but really at this age, I find I'm really not by myself anymore. I'm bringing all these people that either I have left, you know have moved on. Or can't fish anymore. You know have passed on, something like that. And were very special to me at some point in my life. And my father and my grandfather for example.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:09:37] Well I couldn't be more tickled that you're doing this. And you are doing it. You know meeting the person and getting acquainted with you. No, I find it invaluable. 20, 30 years ago, I would have gone, eh. You know. But now it's a whole nother thing. And becoming more and more familiar with all the people that have played a part in this. And what that's meant, and to my story and my success is very very important in. And now it is. It's become extremely meaningful in terms of of its value. And it's nice to turn to things like that, in the course of conversation. People love to know what the history is, they almost thrive for it. I was in Sweden last year, did a presentation for three days with a group of fellow rod builders. There was thirty people in the group. And we spent three days together and they're very, as you know the Swedish people are very, they're pretty crafty people. They're very good with their hands. And the work that I saw coming coming out of there just astonished me. Just wonderful stuff. One guy does twisted rods. He makes 'em square bamboo rods that are in the square which is a quad. And then he twists them. It's the damndest thing you ever saw. I've always wanted to do it. But I mean it's one of the things I haven't been able to get to, to do. And I think I know how to do it but I know in a in a in hex configuration, but he did it in a square. And I just went, wow. He gifted me one, I brought it back with me, and it casts like a dream. It looks terrible. But it is just but those kind of things went on there so Sweden for three days with a group of guys. I probably went away learning more from them, than they learned from me. I can give the whole North American spiel, which they really are interested in. The history, primarily that the Winston history, and the West Coast history of rod building. And then some of the, some of the fishing stuff which I was party to growing up doing in California

and going to school in Northern California put me in touch with an unbelievable cross-section of people. Unbelievable. And only in the these latter years it, it's really come home to me how important these people are. So yes, there's tremendous value in it. You know these collections. Especially when, in this day and age, when you can put them out there for the whole world to access and. And. And I'm sure you've probably linked up with some of the other, you know, some of the other collections. Which is why it makes it even more invaluable. I don't think even you can say enough about it, and it could help to bring us back home again. And it all the right sorts of ways in putting the history back in front of people. Because right now it seems to be, there seems to be a big gap and, you know. Who, why reinvent something it's already been done over and over again. It's right there in front of you, all you have to do is go to access it. And find it and read about it. But they want to do it from the scrap, from scratch. There's nothing wrong with that, but it is it is an interesting, interesting aspect.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:14:07] Oh it's an ever changing thing that's for sure. When I lived in California there were some exceptional places there. I remember the New River. When I was going to college there, which is a little tributary to the Trinity. And it was one of those walk up the trail and. They go up a couple of miles and fish your way further up or down from that point. That was always very special, always liked to get off the beaten path and find, you know, find something that took a little bit of work to get to. So that kind of hits the spot. I have a very fond place in my memories and heart for California waters and I still do in some of the biggest fish some of the best stories right out of there. Then coming into this country, through Idaho, Henry's Fork was was always that was a great lesson in humility. That's where I really honed my skills on fine trout fishing. And I guided there for a number of seasons. So you had that twin thing going, you're forced to learn and then you learned on your own terms too. And then coming into this country living in Twin Bridges for some 30 some years. Lower Big Hole. Very special to me. The Beaverhead absolutely, you know obviously just very special. Ruby was all those four rivers that Jefferson was really off. But it's made a wonderful comeback. Absolutely, unbelievable comeback. Thanks to ranching and, and a lot of effort from a lot of different factions that put that back together. And made it come alive again in the fisheries. I've never seen it stronger. That rainbow, that special rainbow population is back again. And then of course, my love of loves is the Big Hole. I know it from stem to stern, from up in the wee high parts of the watershed, all the way to the mouth. And I mean I know every step of it. Step of it yet I still don't know it that that well. And I love the, love the Big Hole simply because of the mix of species there. You know. You just have everything. And I've even caught burbot. Not on a not on a fly, but I've caught burbot. And am amazed at where they'll show up and in the, in the drainage. It just absolutely astonishes me. So yeah, the big hole is become very special, in fact, these long winter months right now. It brought me into thinking of where I want to step into the river come the right, the right time of the year. So there's, there's. And it. There's so many vary, variations on that on the trout scene in the Big Hole. That's I think the wonder of it all, is that you know you've got a canyon fishery. Lots of long deep pools and heavy water. You go up into the headwaters and it's just flat water fishing. I mean you just totally. Different water, like a valley stream. And then down towards the mouth you end up with that kind of a valley free stone kind of. And my background is, is all fish, fisheries. So I I love those you know, love those variations on one in one stream alone. And then you get the mixture of the geology in the area you know the uniqueness of the of the river how it makes almost a complete circle on itself. And then that wonderful aspect of how it's been recaptured into the Snake River drainage through time. Geologic time. And how there's a isolated population of lake trout in the big hole that could only come by, by that, by that phenomenon of being captured back and forth. So those things certainly, certainly hold my attention. Plus, there's a wonderful mix of fishery in there, that you all take. You

can find, find find on top feeding. Or get them to come up to the top. And I think one of the really unique things about the big hole is how shallow those fish will come into, come into. And I've seen them with their dorsal fin, and their tip of their cuttlefin. Just they're just scooping up good maras, you know, from the bottom. And you can't get them to come to a fly for love or money. But they'll stay there. And they'll just scarf it up just like a pig in the trough. So there's a lot to learn. Lot of, lot that I've learned. But I think I'm about 50, 60 percent competency on the big hole in my fishing abilities on the big hole. And its tributaries. And it's been a wonderful experience. And the cutthroat have made a good come, strong comeback in some sections of it which is really kind of.... So the big hole probably consumes most of my time. And the beauty of it is, that it's it's completely free. It's, it's an undammed and unchecked drainage which is saying. A lot. Now George. George Grant. Good. We've got to live up to George Grant's fish here and a lot of other people. But George Grant in particular.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:20:43] Yeah, a fishing partner. That's. I lost the best fishing partner you could ever have. Bill MacAfee I mentioned him, and I'll give you all his fishing logs here before you leave today. He really was an unusual guy. Very quiet very very much a man unto his own, his own. a man's man. He graduated in the same area of expertise that I did, fisheries sciences. And practiced that. So we both had that interest. And we both practiced in California for the fish and game there for a few years and then he started to. He gave that up after a few years, wrote a few, few manuals and books and things for Cal Fish and Game, and I continued on and went on with the federal, federal Fish and Wildlife Service. But I continued to fish with him over the years. But he you know he. Besides the fisheries aspect and being a very questioning sort of a guy, and doing pretty much everything himself. Tying the flies building the rods, putting in the time time exploring. The expensive at the time time spending. And building that expertise as you go on, with your fishing experiment you travel all over the world. And I followed him. New Zealand, South America. East Coast, West Coast and Alaska, lot in Alaska. We did an awful lot in Alaska, did an awful lot in Argentina. And we are always were totally on our own. We always team up as a pair sometimes to be a third, third person. And, and off we go. We put a backpack on and down the down the Argentine coast. We'd follow and we'd fish all these these little streams and learn you know learn as we went along, and that had some wonderful, wonderful fishing, fishing that no one ever has gotten into. Just because we had the time in our favor and we wanted to do it. Just to say, God what's down the coast it's gotta be some coastal streams there that hold fish. Had a little rumors from the local ranchers and farmers. Spirited us on down we go. But he, he was special in the sense that he was so, so quiet. Peace, at peace with himself. Always always was very methodical about his, his fishing. You know he'd spend that time watching, waiting, gearing up. He he really lived up to the old thing that Gary Hause used to talk about, the three Ws: walking, watching, and wondering. And I you know I the three Ws are what it all kind of comes down to fishing for me. Just gotta walk a little bit. You got to watch it. And if you're not in wonder over it all. You know. You're missing the essence of it. So I try to live up to that. And he was a big professor of that. he didn't fish as intently I did, I was more the the crazy fisherman I just I just ploughed on downstream or upstream and he just stayed very much in place. We were pretty close in age too. But he was very very in tune with with what he was doing, always. Whereas I was, I was just always jumping around doing things differently. Very well read. And very very good with the people that he the he guided was exceptionally good with them. They always spoke very highly of Bill. So Bill, after he was gone, I never looked any further because there was no replacement at hand and he spoiled me. And he kept me true. And the thing is he kept me very true to myself. I mean he'd get me, he saw me out of, out of out of line at all especially in Alaska which was really something he was very sensitive about. You know you had to follow a very definite pattern to, to the outdoors

up there. He just he was very very sensitive to that experience, especially in the Brooks Range. Boy, that was something else. And we spent a lot of time together in that country. So you get to know somebody very, very well. And I remember my grandfather always said, you want to get to know somebody really well take them fishing. And that's what I do before I hire anybody. I get familiar with them as as a fisherman and that is a prime requirement for anybody. I can teach 'em how to build rods, but fishing is something that you have to come by. And you have to spend time on on your own. Put your own time in. But, and have the right kind of, and look for the right kind of mentoring too. So Bill was, when I lost Bill I pretty much stopped fishing for a long time, but then I took it up again. Started traveling. Doing it in the spirit of Bill. I was very glad I did.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:27:46] Yeah, that's a good one. Yeah, well you'll find your, put your time in. That's definitely it. You'll find equipment and all that is secondary. Learn, you know learn all the basics to it. How a rod goes together how to fish flies or worms or bait or anything. Learn how to really master those kind of things on your own terms. And then, always be looking for a mentor. Somebody to take you under wing. And you can do that a number of different ways. People always come into our shop. And you can see they're primed to be taken under wing and we'll, we'll always invite them to go out and show them the waters and give them some pointers and turn them loose. In, an even loan them rods and equipment, you know to make sure that they experience it in all the right sorts of ways. So at Sweetgrass, and at Winston too, when I was there, we followed through with that. Part of it, I always felt I wanted to return what I was given, the opportunities. So, so many ways and so many different people through or through a big part and still is in my life. I still rely a lot on a lot of people a lot of people. A lot of people are still there. They're in all the right sort of way fishing wise, equipment wise, building wise, knowledge wise. So finding a good mentor and somebody who will take you under wing is very good. Involve yourself in club, club activities. Get get yourself involved in that part of it I think that's all essential. You know that you can always find a mentor in those kind of circumstances. I think a club, any kind of fishing club, kind of thing any anything of local, local sort will help to get you, get you well established. And well on your way. You need that. There's very few of us have done this on their, on our own, and especially in these times. Early on, it was passed on from father to son. Now it's more of a interested party through clubbing, or a neighbor or something like that. The father son thing is on the sort rarity anymore. So I don't I don't see much of that going on. There's a few that come through the shop door, father and son, and that's nice to see. But it's the exception not the rule. But yeah, I think it's all important to people that are getting started in the sport. To look at the literature, look at the local clubs, find a local person that they can, they can really rely on, that will help them. And it's amazing how many people are ready, that are in the know, are ready to take somebody under wing to do that. With that I find that all the time.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:31:21] Well theres a story on that one. That's a. That's a, no it's, it's .no doubt that we've got our work cut out for us, for generations to come, and fighting for, for what is, has been well established here in Montana especially those stream protection act. One of a kind. The stream access act. Legislation. As a model to any other place in the in the country. And fought for it tooth and nail and continue to. And it's ever present that, that threat of losing those important, those important things. That the access and stream protection as a whole is essential here. And there's a lot of good factions in place here a lot of good of of organizations that are really in place. But, you know it still takes a membership it takes, takes, a base group, hometown kind of stuff, to to get, back those people up. And be the voice for local waters, for local concerns. But it's ever present. I mean the threat is ever present. You just read in the papers, read any place, go online, you're. If you're interested or aware it's there. And it ain't going away. And it's getting more

and more prevalent. And you know the private ownership, taking over public property lands properties and waters and stuff. You know what really brought this home to me, more than anything else. I grew up in California and really became a John Muir person. And I really admired what he, you know, what he was up against there. But it wasn't until I worked in Yosemite Park. In and you know as in the Sierra Club capacity and then as a fisheries biologist capacity that I came to realize that, even though it's, it's legislation that park lands are protected from any development. It happened anyway. Hetch Hetchy was built. Tomoline metals was was flooded. That's all in park. And as soon as John Muir died, they made that happen. It was because of him and him alone when he was alive that they were prevented from doing it. But as soon as he died, it was all over. They built in the park, it broke with precedent there. And there's nothing written that says this is protected for all generations to come. It can change tomorrow. You got to be ready to fight the good fight because if you're not ready to do that then you're going to lose it. It's that simple. It's it takes a real considered, considered, consorted effort to to do, do what the John Muir kind of thing did, what George Grant kind of thing did. Tony Schooen does today in so many other voices. You know voices of that age that are still fighting the good fight. And voicing the concerns of the public interest. So yes that, that and you know that the Kennedy thing has been very near and dear to me. Jim Kennedy. Because I worked, I know Jim. And and he's done a lot for our town there in Twin Bridges, a lot. And a lot of things that I have cause some of the causes that I'm behind. He supported that continually. But he's he's got this in his craw, he's going to. And my advice to him has always been, your money would have been better spent from the get go if you put it into PR kind of stuff and then what, the lawyer kind of things. They would have advised you you for a pittance. Just leave it alone. It's not. It's not that important. But since you have made it important, now it's a fight and it's going to it's you're going to come up against it and he has again and again and again. I don't know what he's going to turn to next. His lawyers threatening to take this to the Supreme Court now. So what, undo takings, kind of kind of things. But this is certainly at the highest courts in the state level. Has been held up as you probably well know, you probably have all of Jim's papers for, the guy that carried the, carried the ball on that one from, you know from the get go.

**James Thull** [00:36:46] We don't, nut that that would be great stuff for us to get.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:36:47] He would be, I'm surprised you know they'll nail that one down and make. Because that's becoming extremely important information. And some of the people that got the ball rolling here are still around. And can tell the story and tell it well. And it's wonderful to see part of it. We did, we did a archives fishing thing for just Butte here last year. And it was really well received. And I didn't realize how important it was to stream protection and stream access laws, and getting the ball. There is a force of power here in Butte, that I didn't recognize until I started to put that all together, and put, put, put it together for the archives. It was, it's the history it's just unbelievable.

**James Thull** [00:37:51] That's great.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:37:58] Well going on 80 years old. I'm pretty happy with the way things are for the fish and fisheries. I think they've definitely been improved. Access, this has been addressed in all the best sorts of ways. A lot of great organizations in place to protect all those things are in place that weren't there when. I was coming through them, through it. So I think everything is there, that I like to see. I don't see youth coming into the sport quite like it used to. In fact I almost see it almost at a loss. And I almost feel, myself included, cheated, for certain coming to, into manhood kind of things. As sort of sort of traditions are lost, and fishing was a big part of that, I think. And hunting too for that

matter. So I think that's, that, that has definitely been a loss. But just to kind of give an overview of what I see. Having had have happened, you know since the, The River Runs Through It phenomenon. And there was 10 years or so of wonderful business, as a result of that. Now it's going the other way. Where don't see people coming into the sport. Don't see new innovations, tackle wise or fishing wise. Most of our clientele is is an older clientele, like myself. You just don't see younger people becoming involved. You go to, we go to shows a lot. Just came from one Sacramento. And then I have my partner back in the East Coast. He does all the shows back on this same story, same old faces, where are the new guys. They're just not there. Their there, but not in the abundance that you would like to see them. And our business is suffering because of it. You know. There's more people building rods, wanting to get into the business than they're one man shops. And I encourage that. And that's one of my purposes is just to encourage you know the craft and keep them growing and going. But it challenges us in the marketplace share. Because the pie is getting smaller, but there's more people vying for the pie. So it does take, take something away. No, I think it is the sport offers unbelievably for, for all the right kind of things. But the younger people don't seem to be coming to it with, in the numbers that we, we used to see.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:41:34] There's a lot of people. A lot of organizations. A lot. The stuff I was mentioning about the Salmon Institute back, back in Washington. With Vito Roar and his group that work with the Russians. They're doing some unbelievable stuff there. The state and federal agencies are always fighting the big political game and that's a tough one, and the financial game too. The, being limited by funds, funds both of them. In private or public. So that's always a limiting factor. But who's, who's doing the job of bringing in new, new, new people, new, new, new ideas, a new new focus on this. The local clubs are wear its all that are companies like Simm's or Orvis or Winston or you know any, any like kind of things, all have a responsibility to do their part. And I think they're doing some part in Patagonia too, look at, look at Yvon. I mean he was going to buy Winston from from Tom and I at one point, but ran into those legal difficulties with (unintelligible), legal case and lost the whole shooter. But he was he was looking seriously at buying Winston, at one time. And he had a vision for Winston that I thought was right on. You know which which I'm addressing here, bringing, how do you bring this next generation the younger generation up and draw them into it. They've got, a lot of them have the means. And and. But they don't have the time. So how do you combine those two. And he had a great vision for that. He would have been a perfect person to jump into the next step for Winston to certainly go to. And he's devoted, he's set of hell, hell of a great precedent for other companies, ourselves included. How do you write, how you run a good ethical company like that, that have you drawing from a lot of natural resources here. And drawing also from a pop- a workforce that's outside of the country as well. How do you make that all come together, and he's done, I think a pretty marvelous job. not perfect. And he's the first to admit that. But he's always working on it. So people like him, like Casey at Simm's doing a great job. He was another contender for Winston too, he was going to buy Winston at one time. And you know I think ownership of, of companies like tackle companies should devote something to that. And backup all the other, all the other organizations that are fighting. You know, fighting the good fight. TU, FFF, the Natural Resources Defense Council I think, is this is just one of the, it's one of the oldest ones. Sierra Club. There's a lot of them out there. Don't have to be fishing oriented but they all relate to fishing in some way or another. And you know we've got all pool our resources here and see for, see it in more about a bigger, more spacious sort of way, that's becoming so global. I mean it's absolutely unbelievable. I go to China now it's just, I'm, I'm just overwhelmed by what I see going on over there. And what they're getting done and not getting done. So, yeah I don't know if that answers that question quite but.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:46:11] From. Yeah. Yeah. OK. Well, of course my grandfather. And father have certainly take precedent over anything else. And then it fell into, you know, going to going to going to college and you know Jim Adams was was a very very fund- you know very important. And another guy named Woody Sexton, who I followed around for a couple of years. He was going to school up there himself along with Jim and I both got the same degree and we got a degree and I think zoology and biology and he was a Korean vet. And older. And then he, and he worked in the woods too, there in the Redwoods, as a faller. But he fished. He was of that old that old generation that old school fisherman. Fishing bamboo, fishing, learning trying to apply new techniques new, new tackle kind of things to, to the salmon steelhead thing. And leaded lines. We didn't have the equipment they have the day. Leaded lines, glass rods, sometimes bamboo, mostly glass. You know fishing for chinook on the Smith River. It's crazy, absolutely nuts. I mean the people that I've crossed rods with. Bill Shad, and Bob Wettle, and I mean these are these are contemporaries of mine. They're my and my generation of fish, fishermen. And they were very influential on me. And of course, you know Russ Chatham was a big influence on me. His writings as well as knowing him personally. Never fished with him. Oh I have too. I did fish with him. In a, he is he, he's a wonderful guy. Let's see who else, Haig Brown's writings was very important. All of his writings. But there's one particular writing that stands out, that really affected me. The book that I ran into in Yuaga. You know in a library for sale. And they were just. No one ever checked it out. I grabbed it and read it. I read it and I read it and I read it I passed it on to somebody else, and that was it. So when I was up at Haig Brown's, fishing the Campbell River doing some fisheries work up there, had the good fortune of spending some time with his wife, and she said what of his write, what writings of his do you like? And I said, Oh no question about it, his book On The Highest Hill. She said, you're the only one that's ever read that. And it's my favorite one too. On The Highest Hill. I have never been able to find it again. I was just, it's lost from my library. Though, but it is it's a fiction. But it's very biographical. Of his, of what he believes, and how he would have lived his life. He would have given his life up for, you know, the things he believed in. So those are the people I think right off it. Certainly Ben Flossie, Bergman's book, books, his writings. Brooks, I love Brooks, and I used to correspond with him. He helped me a lot with fishing in South America. And of course, you know. In the keys. I did a lot of fishing down there in the '60s. So I had all all those early days things to draw from. And they were the only people you could you could ask anything about that knew anything. So yeah they were very important. They continued to work in today's writing. Oh. Middleton's books absolutely stunning books. Now that's writing about trout. And I can remember Chatham saying. He published the second second. Second time he published, he published it. And he wrote the foreword to it. He said because of his writings he gave up trout fishing he figured he wasn't passionate enough about trout fishing. He gave it up. And he gave all his equipment away. I see. He maintains his salmon steelhead. He realized he wasn't a trout fisherman. And quite a realization. And he wrote that into his book, in his forward. So Middleton's writing absolutely right on stuff, for me. And I continue to read, read and reread his stuff. Like Haig Brown's. Leopold's writing Sand County Almanac should be a central reading. Should be central reading and I fall back on those readily. And they keep in, yeah, they keep me energized in all the right sorts of ways because I, I tire of the regular trout stories myself.

**James Thull** [00:52:18] So you'd say those are some of your favorite angling authors.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:52:21] Yes. and a lot them are contemporary. Chatam's books are absolutely unbeatable. You know I think he writes better and he draws . He has a real

passion. There's no doubt. And it shows up in his writing for me. I'm sure there's someone missing too, the Middletons. Is, is a wonderful, wonderful writer.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:52:59] No, I just like it. I I just I love to see a nose coming through the, breaking the surface of the water, and that's what I live for. It's all sight fish fishing. I don't fish blind anymore. It's all in whatever I can find on the surface I fish for. So I have no species preference. No, I can't say that. You know cutthroat is is an underrated species that I, I, I really slowly come to more and more appreciate. And I think I gain a great in valued appreciation for them when I worked on Yellowstone, for the fish and wildlife service years back. When the cutthroat was still there. And they had it, they had a sports commercial fishery. They actually, you know, they're so abundant. That they take out, in an half hour's time you live it out, and you take out another bunch another bunch. And I did census work on that. So I got familiar with how important the fishery was in that lake. And then I got. Spent the summer on Peel Island, which is a island at the end of the south, southwest arm. Which is an isolated arm, you can only reach it by canoe. This is a great fishing story. So I was by myself, and I. On this island. And then I would canoe to these two fishing traps that I would count fish and measure 'em and throw 'em upstream and let them go to spawn. For a month or more. And I'd sit, I'd canoe back and sit of the bank of the lake. And I found an all 50 gallon drum in the lake and I dredged it out. And cleaned it all up. And put it on rock supports and built a fire underneath it, and pailed water over it and made it my heated hot hot tub. And I'd sit in a hot tub, and watch the fish swim around the lake and cast to them, and fish to them and in the end the mergansers and pelicans drive fish into the shoreline and fish them. It was just a dream come true. And now I see it is dead. There isn't any fishery, any cutthroat fishery left to speak of. Is what in my lifetime, you went from extreme to extreme. But I know I had great memories of the cutthroat. How beautiful they were and how they take a bare hook. You know come back and take it again.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:56:20] I think they can manage it to a degree, but and they're working on various various hopefully spawning and where they can maybe put spawners back in that have been sterilized, so they start reproducing with unproductive with, you know with eggs that will not produce. And somehow find ways to limit them that way. But you know but it's doubtful that they'll ever be able to control what's at hand now. It's running amok and other other lake systems to, and other species are starting to get involved which I think addresses some of your another question on your list. And no, that cutthroats a beautiful fish, and all of all all trout are are exceptional, even the grayling. And the brook, brook have their place in my book.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:57:36] Yeah. No. That's a tough one. Yeah. Probably not, as a fisheries biologist that fought the good fight and put Rotanown in a lot of streams over the years, and killed off you know killed off all the invasive species, and. It is a tough one. I don't I don't see any hope to, other than maybe to certainly manage more intensely, and put some checks on the invasive species that are reasonable. That keep you know keep native species viable and certainly productive, until they come up with maybe some other other ways. It certainly has its, has its place. A good friend of mine, Morgenson, was the one that came up with the, was a fisheries biologist that worked back in your your country, in Michigan. Was the one that came up with a way to control the lamprey. And you know it may take something as, as simple as that. But we should, we shouldn't give up, looking for ways to better manage, you know for controlling and keeping in check invasive species. And then so it keeps native species certainly viable. But, yeah, I I I think there's always room to make it you know keep working at.

**Glenn Brackett** [00:59:28] Oh, I think so. You know, I know, I know so. Seeing that happen in California. Go from nothing back to something again. One of my, one of my teachers in college, Desmond, I remember he came back from Africa after studying big game animals back there for years and years. And he opened by saying the only true conservation as it, is works only when there's nothing left. It seems like mankind, myself being part of that, waits until it's too late before he puts into force things to try to change, turn that around, and correct the error. Just there's just so many things at play in today's environment. It's hard to manage any, anything without. Feeling at all. Was it John Muir that said, turn over a rock and everything's connected to himself and it has it, it does. Soon as our fellow man all buys into the belief that you are individual acts affect others. Just how are our fellow man and our environment equally. So I think that is the hard thing to get across, the hard message to get across. It is, it's happening you know and again man is going to probably have to get to that point in time where it's an extreme case and it's going to go. There's nothing left to do.

**James Thull** [01:01:31] It seems like we wait till our shoes are on fire and we know it's burning.

**Glenn Brackett** [01:01:35] it is a strange thing. And we are people of extremes, especially in this country. We wait until the last minute.

**Glenn Brackett** [01:01:51] Well I think the low population here helps. And that is the very reason we brought Sweetgrass, or Winston to Montana, is because of that. And put it in Twin Bridges even doubly so, because we knew it wasn't going to grow, and it hasn't. And it's just the unlimited amount of water that is yet, is yet to be explored. I mean you'll never cover it all a lifetime. But the same thing is in, in California. There's an unbelievable amount of water there to fish. And I mean, I proved that over and over again. And with the drop in numbers of fishermen going on today, you know it opens all these waters up again. East and west my former, my partner, Jerry Custage was from the east Buffalo area. Went through the same thing I did in California, you watch all the waters and all the fisheries just, just, take a nosedive because environmental changes and then made the come back again. Now look they got better steelhead and salmon fishing back there than we ever thought on the West Coast. And what a slap across our face. It really is, it's this is it's a dirty shame. So what do we do? We put all our our efforts into going to Russia to try to get them to stabilize, and realize how important these resources are, and build on the sport aspect of it and the environmental aspect and the speciation aspect of it. Other than, you know harvest them and to get can't harvest them any more. Which is the history here. The Columbia River is a perfect example. You mean Duncan, David James Duncan's efforts to try to take those dams out. Steve Pettit, the biologist there in Idaho, constantly working, fighting the great fight against the Corps of Engineers and all the powers that be. Keep those projects alive and well. It's a shame that we're now faced with with nothing but a hatchery run program of all those areas in at that sacrifice of the wild fish, which were being shoved aside by all this stuff. Amazing what we've done. And I think one hundred and fifty dams have been built in that drainage. One hundred and fifty dams. And how they get all the fish still manage to get in and out of there. Amazing, just amazing. But anyway, we could go on for infinity.

**Glenn Brackett** [01:05:09] Well, yeah I grew up with Winston. As a young boy in San Francisco. And my grandfather introduced me to it. It was right on mains, off a main street market. Market Street in San Francisco, very within walking distance to where my father worked for forty five years for the Standard Oil Company. And I go over with him have lunch and then walk on down to the shop and through time you know what I got well

acquainted with all the principal people. Lew Stoner, Doug Merick, and John Tarantino, you know on and on and on, Jack Warner. All these people they were very influential in my my life story. And then of course the people at the Golden Gate Casting Club fit into that as well. And I spent all my time out there too. So, as time went on, I got my degree from Humboldt. Put my time in, 15 years with state and federal agencies. And then Winston came up for sale, and I never had aspirations to buy it. My partner invited me to join up and I did. And we brought Winston up from San Francisco in the '70s. Sold it in the beginning '90s. Tom went out on his own, and I continued on to about the middle of 2006, and then started Sweet, left Winston, started Sweetgrass. And it's been ten years. And we've had Sweetgrass and we just concentrate on the bamboo, that's all we do. A hundred and thirty five models of rod. Five configurations, you know square rods the quads the pet rods the five sided, six sided, seven eight sided rods. In all different lengths, saltwater freshwater, spay rod, spin casting, casting rods. So we do it all. And we you know we do interesting things like walking sticks out of bamboo, that you know that can be built in, put a rod inside. So you know, we do a lot of nice custom work. And most of our work is custom. But we build by, but the challenge is is always something of something that we like. Somebody came to us and said, says, can you do this? And most likely we'll take it on and do it. And it's fun doing it. And that's what goes back to what I said about the marketplace shrinking, and that a lot of people are buying from it, and that's the reason. We do a lot of these unusual things.