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Ben Broscius [00:00:10] So when I was three years old, actually, my dad had taken me out fishing for Sunfish in a little lake, private lake just with like hot dogs or chicken nuggets or whatever. And I caught we have this picture of this huge sunfish, well huge for a 3 year old. And, you know, ever since then, fishing was kind of like a special occasion, I guess? We kind of, you know, we fished once a month, maybe less. It was like a fun thing to do. And then it started picking up, getting more frequent. And it was always with my pops. And it's, it's kind of taken off from there, to when I'm doing it every week, if not multiple times a week. And it's become less of a special occasion and more of a lifestyle.

Ben Broscius [00:01:02] Those are all catch and release, that's one thing he kind of instilled in me at a pretty young age. You know, gotta take care of your resources and I'm glad he did, because they're very important. You got to protect them. And it's good to release the fish you catch, so there's more for other people, and let them spawn all that good stuff.

Ben Broscius [00:01:26] So I I'm a big believer in catch and release, obviously, like I stated, but I know there's always stock trout streams, where I feel like, you know, you can go take your trout. I, my big thing is, you know, kind of leave the wild trout alone as my kind of point of view on that, because, you know, they're very, very special. Where you know, it's good that we have them, especially out east where, you know, wild trout are a little bit more difficult to stumble upon. I believe that they should be protected. And, you know, you can keep a stock trout if you'd like.

Ben Broscius [00:02:03] So the big thing we have in Pennsylvania, a lot of the reason people travel to Pennsylvania for fly fishing is brown trout. So a long time ago, probably early 1900s, people would stock brown trout in our limestone and spring creeks. And, you know, they just took over, unfortunately, from the brook trout. But they've provided a great angling opportunity for anyone who wants to catch a big 20 plus inch wild brown trout that's been in the stream as long as, since it's hatched. So it's a, it's, it's mostly brown trout. When you come to the wild side of things, and then the state tends to stock a lot of rainbow trout and whatnot in this more city like areas.

Ben Broscius [00:02:54] Of course. So a lot of people I know, we'll go over to places like bays, inlets and such, in the Jersey Shore. And they'll fish for a lot of striped bass and blue fish. Those are like the two big game species I hear about a lot. I don't personally do too much of that. And there also are some warm water angling opportunities for musky and small mouth and all that good stuff like on the Susquehanna River is a very famous place for small mouth bass fishing and it's luckily bouncing back. So.

Ben Broscius [00:03:34] Yep, so I pretty much only fly fish. We go up to the Thousand Islands in New York. It's basically the border of Canada and New York. Well, it is the border of Canada and New York. And I will fly fish for bass up there. And that is a heck ton of fun because you strip streamers that long and you catch 5lbs small mouth bass but you don't get too much down here. So it's pretty much all fly fishing.

Ben Broscius [00:04:06] So I kind of my evolution through fishing has been, you know, bait fishing for sunnies, bass, what not. Then came lure fishing for Sunnies and bass and then and I think was seventh grade, so when I was like twelve, I took the Boy Scout merit badge for fly fishing. And because just as I was interested in fishing, I thought those might be something interesting to try out. And I picked up a fly rod caught a large mouth bass

about that long in a trout stream. And it was like, this is really cool. And then I discovered the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. And from then on, I, you know, my goal was to be the best I could be at catching trout. And it's been pretty much trout from there. And then now I'm expanding into some pike and bass, a little bit of salt water as well.

Ben Broscius [00:05:04] US Youth Fly Fishing Team is a group of 15 anglers under the age of 18. Or 18 and under. And basically what we do is we go all over and we compete for trout. We have, I don't know how many medals. We have a lot of medals in the recent years. And doing really well at world championships in the past 10 years or so. We go to a cool championship in British Columbia every year. And we are, kind of our goal is to protect and conserve our resources and promote that. As well as be the best we can be at competing for these species of trout and salmon. And it's I mean, I'm thankful I found it. I found it through Google. But as you said, the United States Youth Fly Fishing Team. Yeah. So I'm glad I found it because I don't know where I'd be without it. I mean, some of my best friends are on the team. So it's just it's a great way to bond through fishing and make new friends. And, you know, we run clinics throughout the year for kids who are trying to make the team or are interested in it. It's just a very, very fun, interesting and exciting organization to be a part of.

Ben Broscius [00:06:25] I think a big part of it and this is going to sound kind of cheesy, but it would be to get more kids involved with the youth team. Because it's a good way to set goals. So, you know, oftentimes I meet kids who are fishing. Who tried spin fishing one time and we're like, oh, you know, I didn't catch anything. It's like, well, you know, there's a lot more to learn than just throwing a worm out and hoping for the best. It's I think, you know, if we were to promote the youth team and promote any kind of youth program, whether it's, I'm trying to think of the there's one that basically is just youth fly fishing. It's not for competition or anything like that. We're promote to promote these programs and get more youth. Goal setting in fly fishing, I think would keep more kids engaged and definitely kept me engaged.

Ben Broscius [00:07:21] That's a tough one because it's so in-depth. But I think a big part of it is just, you know, the camaraderie. So fishing with my dad and fishing with my best friends. Fishing with people who never fished before. It's just I think it's getting, you know, people on the water is one of most interesting parts about being a guide and being a friend, and all that through fishing. And I, I that's really why I do it, is to be out in the outdoors with friends. And, you know, the fish are a bonus at the end of the day. So that's one thing my dad instilled in me at a young age as well, was, you know, the fish are a bonus. You're in the great outdoors. You're enjoying yourself. You're on a beautiful trout stream. You just got to enjoy it, whether you catch a fish or not. So. So it's always good to catch a giant brown trout, but.

Ben Broscius [00:08:14] Yeah, so definitely Hawaii. So the island of O'ahu has very famous bone fishing. Well, I shouldn't say very famous, but very good bone fishing that's not as well known about as the Bahamas or what not, I'd like to get to O'ahu and go bone fishing, like to get down to Patagonia as we were speaking about earlier. Jurassic Lake is a very famous location for fishing. So I'd like to get down to Patagonia, Jurassic Lake anywhere down there, and then probably Montana. Getting out to the Big Horn. I've heard a lot of good things about the Big Horn, and trying to think of the name of it slipping my mind right now. But if I think of it, I'll let you know. There's no there's no. Yeah, there's another river I'd like to. Big Hole River I think. Big Hole river.

Ben Broscius [00:09:06] I've seen a lot more youth actually getting involved with the youth program from more of a diverse area. So it used to be with the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. It used to be pretty much Pennsylvania and North Carolina and Georgia made up the whole United States fly fishing team. Now we have three team members from Oregon, we got one in Colorado, if I'm correct. Couple of kids trying to make the team out in Colorado, one in Texas, and then bunch of us on the East Coast, as usual. One Alabama, stuff like that. I've seen more people from more places getting into it youth wise. But from an overall fly-fishing perspective, I see a lot more towards a push in getting women into the sport and getting catch and release streams, getting them posted as catch and release I guess. Turning, you know, catch and kill, or whatever you want to call them, all tackle, getting fly-fishing catch and release only put on the streams. So especially in Pennsylvania.

Ben Broscius [00:10:16] I do. I do. I think that, you know, the more people you can get into it, it's the more the merrier kind of deal. And I, I would love to see more kinds of people getting into fly fishing. I think it would be really good for the sport.

Ben Broscius [00:10:35] Yeah, I kind of my goal is, is that my kids and grandkids be able to fish for trout. You know, I, I would hate to see climate change and, you know, very well might, if it keeps going the way it's going, ruin our trout stream, especially out East where we don't have those glacial. You know what not. We'll have glacial runoff and all that. We just have springs and limestone. And, you know, if it gets too warm consistently, we're not going to have these amazing resources and trout streams. And something I'm actually very, very interested in preserving and very passionate about it. I think, you know, the more we can do, the more we can cut down on carbon emissions and all that good stuff, the better chance we'll have to preserve these streams for the future. Because like I said, I want I want my future relatives to really be able to enjoy trout streams like I once did.

Ben Broscius [00:11:33] Yeah, so at American Standard, we are a fly fishing guide service that caters to pretty much the entire state of Pennsylvania. Wherever you want to go in Pennsylvania, I can get one my guides to take you there and really learn the stream. We started this February and you know, we're very, very big on providing an educational experience on the water as well as a positive one. So, you know, I've heard a lot about people going on guide trips where they learned a lot, but the guide was not very nice person or whatnot. And I've heard some some stuff about, you know, wow is so much fun. I caught fish, but I can't go out tomorrow and catch a trout. So, you know, American Standard, our goal is to kind of combine those two worlds of a positive and educational experience and put them together. That's why I've hired who I've hired, because I feel like they can really do both well, it's not it's not a question of one or the other. Can we do both well, that's kind of our our goal as a guide service.

Ben Broscius [00:12:40] Yeah. So George Daniel, he was a member of the United States adult team for many years. Probably back in the early 2000s. He's written some really good books on nymph fishing. And I. And streamer fishing as well. And I have learned a good amount about, you know, leader formula's reading water, all kinds of good stuff from, you know, from his books. And I think I think they're very intriguing and they're very, very for early 2000s, they're very forward thinking and they still are. You know, there's constant innovation in the world of fly fishing. And I feel like he's really innovated, you know, ahead of his time on this. I find that very interesting as well as Joe Humphreys. Joe Humphreys is very involved with the youth team. And I think he is just a legend. There's no other way to put it. He you know, he was a Penn State wrestling coach, you know, and a huge fly fisherman his whole life. And I've I can't remember what book it is. I've kind of flip through

of his a few times. And I think it's a very intriguing book. I think it's, I can't think of the name of it. It's a very, very intriguing book. It's about dry fly fishing.

Ben Broscius [00:13:53] Mm hmm. Yeah. So I would agree that we we as guides, we as fly shops, any kind of, you know, even a clothing brand that does fly fishing stuff such as. You know, I'm trying to think of one, but escaping my mind. Yeah. Yeah, I agree. We have a huge responsibility because, you know, everyone's kind of looking to us as the example. And if you go out with a guide and you don't know that keeping the trout out of the water for more than a few seconds is bad for it. And he's, you know, taken a while to get the hook out. What not. You might be likely to do the same thing. So that's why I think when I go out on a guide trip keeping a trout in the water with a barbless hook, so taking the hook out, maybe getting a quick picture and letting him go and explaining to my client, about not squeezing the fish. You know, if you can keep them in the water the whole time, that's ideal. I you know, just as basic as that all the way up to, you know, climate change. I feel like, yeah, we have a pretty, pretty big responsibility as fly fishing industry professionals.

Ben Broscius [00:15:01] So I'm a sales associate, Orvis in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. And I think it is is one of my favorite jobs I can ask for. What I saw one of the best jobs I could ask for. I've never worked anywhere else besides my own business. But it's awesome. Get to talk fishing all day. And, you know, my my coworkers are great. You know, we all share fish stories when it's slow and talk about, oh, and when you go and fish and next, then all that's said between coworkers and, you know, the actual talking fishing being your job, while not necessarily being on the water. It's pretty good deal, pretty good deal. I would say. And that's good working for a good company. You know, we a lot of people don't know that, Orvis. I think it's 5% of pretax profits go towards conservation. So that's huge to me as we were talking about it with, you know, the whole as a responsibility, as an industry professional. You know, it's it's huge for me to see that in a big company.

Ben Broscius [00:16:07] So I would like to guide for the next 10 to 10 to 20 years. And then after that, I'm not really sure, I do want to work in at least the very least the outdoor industry. So that's fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, whatever it may be. I'd really like to work in that realm. But for the for the foreseeable future, I'd like to work either as a guide or, you know, developing a rod would be awesome. I'd love to design a rod for European style nymphing or or just nymphing techniques in general. That would be pretty cool. But so probably on the list would be rod designer and guide. Those are my kind of two, an aspiration and a current work in progress. I really enjoy being a guide. It's pretty sweet to be able to take someone out on the water and teach them how to fish. You know, my first client caught his first wild trout with me. He'll only call it stock trout before. And I thought that was awesome to see, like how excited he was about the brown trout that was that big. It was obviously beautiful. And, you know, I'd like to guide for as long as I physically can. Definitely.

Ben Broscius [00:17:21] I'm a big graphite guy. I would fish bamboo for the fact that I think it's really, really cool, but I don't think it's practical. And now I don't have very strong opinions on this. I think, you know, to each their own. I know some guys really hate graphite rods and they love bamboo. I think there's bamboo rods are a work of art. And I would hate to actually use one. I'd be terrified to break it. Rods, a lot of the time using like 10 foot two weight 10 foot, three weight graphite rods that are fairly soft in the realm of fly fishing just for what we're doing a lot, nymphing. You see a lot of guys, especially in your guide who set, you know, real hard and they fling fish with a faster rod. So it's softer. Graphite rods are what I use.

Ben Broscius [00:18:13] Yeah, I've been tying flies for, I think four years now. Four or five out of my five or six year journey in fly fishing. And now all the flies in my box are are mine. I've tried them, put the time in. And my my kind of laziness comes in because it takes more than two or three minutes, I'm probably not gonna tie it. So often, like nymphs, like a walts worm or a basic pheasant tail will be my go tos because I have about a thousand of them and they take about 30 seconds to a minute to tie. My current coach in fly fishing. Kalvin Kalos. He's a great dude, great mentor. He actually taught me how to fly fish. My first, I am sorry I mean fly tie, at my first US Youth Fly Fishing team clinic. And it's pretty funny because we've both seeing evolution of each other from him teaching me out of time my first fly and kind of taking off with that, as well as the fishing aspect of things, into him becoming from just an instructor to the head coach. So as you know, it's pretty cool for him to have taught me that fly tying and for me to take off and see him become the head coach. So.

Ben Broscius [00:19:34] Yes. So it was actually that same clinic. It's on Big Fishing Creek in Pennsylvania. Used to be. And I remember we tied a little walts worm with a small tungsten bead and the jig hook. And I think I had it for like two years afterwards. Never fished it because it was like my first bug. And I remember I caught like two fish, that whole clinic. I didn't know what the heck I was doing I was just basically swinging a fly rod out in the air hoping for the best. And I remember I caught like this little dinky brown trout, or it might have even been a brook trout. It was about four inches long. And I was like, Yo. I tied this thing like, this is awesome. You know, I remember I really got excited about that. I remember the hole I was fishing and just can't remember if a brook or a brown. And I caught two fish. That whole whole three day event. And they're both on that fly. So it was it was very, very exciting moment for me.