

bunsie-richard-2017-11-12.mp4

Richard Bunsie [00:00:14] Well fishing has meant different things to me at different stages of my life. At, what it means to me is this. Or what. What it does for me is it enables me to connect with it with my environment. And from my earliest years I had this fascination with everything that moved and swam and crawled and then I spent most of my young life on my belly with my face right by the water catching water skippers and crawdads and salamanders and and occasionally a little.

Richard Bunsie [00:01:00] Cutthroat trout. And I grew up on a on a small stream in the headwaters of Pringle Creek and what's now six miles in the city limits of Salem. It was three miles outside back then.

Richard Bunsie [00:01:14] And I just developed this fascination of observing all these things. And that's kind of been what has been behind my fishing for throughout no matter where I'm at. What type of fishing I'm doing what stage of in my life. There's this connection that I have to make.

Richard Bunsie [00:01:39] And. It's not like a chore. It's a pleasure. It's not. Yes it's trying to get back to that place where I'm intimately involved and connected with the.

Richard Bunsie [00:01:57] Not just the fish or but but where they live. Yeah. Yeah. And at times it's it can be almost therapy you know. And it has been in certain stages of things that happened in my life but. But if... I've been a visual person all my life I'm an artist and I and I like artists like poets and writers have an unusual sense of observation and curiosity and I had that. And. It's really enabled me to... Put things in perspective. You know.

Richard Bunsie [00:02:55] First thing I did when I was when I was in in Vietnam and came back in 69 the very first thing I did was let's go fishing. Get back to reality. And the first thing I did when my father died was go to a river I've been fishing all my life. That I knew intimately. And it wasn't about going out to catch trout it was about going there just to be close to those things that fascinated me all my life. And then I can focus on it it's a little bit like Zen or meditation of some sort especially with fly fishing because fly fishing has this kind of metronomic thing going on where it's a rhythm that the rhythm captures you. You don't create the rhythm like a musician does. A fly rod has its rhythm. You have to adapt to it and once you get to it it's just this beautiful kind of poetic thing going on in and it enhances the whole meditative quality of it. I really love fishing I love catching bluegills under a bobber and I like rolling worms and I like I got my share of steelhead rolling eggs. But but Fly Fishing is one thing that has just captivated me. And for a long time I was thought of as a purist because that's all I did. But just because there is only 365 days a year if there were more I would of done a lot of other things. Absolutely and its that that thing that I was talking about about observation you know. Any most artists that I know are just real observers. They have to see and ponder and and bring in all kinds of images and distill them and make an expression. And you know like two dimensional artists are no different than writing or anything else in that in that aspect. And it's it's also very useful in fly fishing. And one of the I've been really fascinated with with critters and so when I started I had the fortune of running into Dave and Rick when they were going to college and they were just starting to. They actually did their very first little seminar part of the University of Oregon State and it was a no visual aids or anything just drawing on blackboards and telling every body about hatches. And I went there and got acquainted with them and I took them out to fish a few different hatches that I discovered around here

and we became good friends. And in the process I was real fortunate to get involved in their first book which was Western Hatches.

Richard Bunsie [00:06:08] 30 40 years ago that they wrote it or Whatever. I had a chance to spend about a couple of years fishing with them and traveling around and catching bugs and was they wanted me to illustrate that book and so kind of involved in the process. And I learned so much about hatches and insects and fishing and it exposed me to a lot of other things. Things like Montana, Idaho and other streams in Oregon were pretty much I was a small stream guy just close to home until that point. Yeah. The process of learning about about those things has made me more skillful. I have a hard time with the definition of better, sometimes.

James Thull [00:07:06] Sure it's a fluid term.

Richard Bunsie [00:07:08] Yeah. I get. When I was going to college I worked in a fly shop for a while. And we had, it was just at that point in Angling where they were introducing cane rods I mean introducing graphite rods. In the first HMV graphites were coming out and then a few years later things were coming out like boron and all that good stuff. And I was like everybody else I was kind of a gearhead at that time want to buy new things and try new things out. But I started noticing that that we had all these reps coming in with the brand new item and it was going to make you a better angler and you were going to have more fun fishing if you had this special graphite rod or you had a special line and whatever. And and just kind of rubs me the wrong way. And then when they started calling it the fly fishing industry man I'm out of here. So.

Richard Bunsie [00:08:19] I had the fortune of because I was there while the guys were trading in their old fishing rods for brand new graphite. I had just picked up some nice little old cane rods. They were not real expensive but really beautiful rods and I picked up a couple a little seven and a half foot Soft bend 290 hadn't and started fishing cane in and it just it was this really enhanced my fishing because it was just so organic. There was some romance to it. There was poetry to it. It wasn't a mechanic it wasn't you wasn't described in these scientific terms it was it was a... You know you you pick up an old rod that's got hundreds of fishing trips rubbing into the handle. And it was built by somebody who really loved fish and and spent hours and hours doing it. And would I've been a better fisherman if I gone to you know, super graphite rod or the newest the newest thing and I just became kind of mystical curmudgeon I guess and I said like I really like fishing and I don't care. I'm not using this. I mean I can still catch fish on (unintelligible) still catch fish on bamboo rods and really great time at it. So. Yeah it enhances it. Yeah it really does. It enhances the fishing to me. I really prefer I'm not a of a rod builder. There are some I have friends that build bamboo rods like Bellinger and Justin Mangin and a few people that that make beautiful cane rods and I really admire their skill and their efforts. I'm a wood butcher. I just I like to find old bamboo and make a silk purse out of a sows ear and I've done that to a lot of rods and there for me they're for fishing you know and. There's something about the connection you make with a cane rod while you're fishing that I don't get with a lot of other types of rods. It's like I can reach out and touch things. You get to know I know a good bamboo rod a well-designed bamboo that casts nicely, and it becomes part of you and it may not cast quite as far may not cast as best but they're usually incredibly accurate and really wonderful fishing tools and you can you can do that. That part of fly fishing thats fishing and not just casting belting lines out and stuff. So yeah I I I find them to be part of, a big part of my fly fishing really enhances it.

Richard Bunsie [00:11:42] Yeah. I don't remember When I started my I I was I had a I think my dad was my dad wasn't the expert fisherman.

James Thull [00:11:54] So I was going to ask you how you kind of got involved did somebody bring you in or did you discover it.

Richard Bunsie [00:11:58] He loved to fish. And he loved to hunt and he loved to explore and and I kind of developed part of my ethic from him. He was the kind of dad that would wake you up at 5:00 in the to say you want to go fishing you know without hounding him and asking him to go. And he taught me a lot about you know in my early years of fishing I like I mentioned I grew up on this little creek and I spent a lot of time just crawling around my hands and fishing. But I also know it was a creek you could nearly jump across and it was too small for a real rod and I had the end of an eight foot rod with friction taped to the handle and a tie a line to the end of it and the dapple and catch cutthroats out of it. And. It was kind of like a real primitive form of tenkara fishing. And then I would go out with my dad and do serious fishing you know go up and fish Pautzkes for trout and Detroit Lake. And then I I really enjoyed the time I spent with him. He taught me quite a bit but he also gave me the sense of well he was. It was like if we went up to a place and caught a whole bunch of fish and we decide to go two or three days he would always want to go someplace else. That was really good there at Kelly Creek why don't we go over to Blowout and see what its like over there and we would do that and he'd see a gravel road think. I wonder where that goes. And. I picked up a lot of that from him. And I always not always but I like I have fished with a lot of friends and I do a lot of social fishing but most of my.

Richard Bunsie [00:13:55] Fly fishing, serious fly fishing, has been done alone. Enjoy the solitude and kind of kind of contemplativeness and the ability to explore. I don't care. I don't feel like I have to perform or show somebody a good time or get them into fish I know that I can try something different and just see what's there and discover and, and, and it kind of enhanced it because you get a new puzzle every time. It's not just redoing the same thing. So I used to do what I called a magical mystery tours. Carol always wanted know which direction I was going to go. I couldn't tell her where I was going to go and say well I'm going east. I get on to I5 and I'm not sure weather I go north or south or wherever but I usually wander around and fish wherever I ended up going. I did that lots. I have a couple memories that really stick out to me. The first one is this when I was really little I was probably somewhere between 7 and 8 9 something like that crawling on my hands and knees into out onto Pringle Creek on this log across the river crystal clear water and a little pool and this cutthroat I had scared. It swam back in it came up right by the log it was just and I'm laying there looking at it now I'm just I was facinated for it seems like forever. Sitting there watching him just open his mouth dart around grab things come back. And I just. It just absolutely fascinated me. The other really memorable thing. Another one was when I got out of the service and I went fishing first day I was out, which is another story but but what. But that summer somebody starting tell me about steelhead being up on the Siletz river and I never fished for a Steelhead had a little trout rod. And but I decided I was gonna go up and give em a try. And I went up and it was opening of deer season and there was a bridge across the river and I walked down this bridge and looked around and sure enough there was a steelhead on the end of this pool. And. So I snuck down there and I cast at him and spooked him and he swam off and I tried for a while and all I seen a little cutthroats and I was happy with little cutthroats. So I put on a little caddis fly started wandering up the creek catching all kinds of small cutthroats. And I got up there and I saw two steelhead laying there and I cast this fly over it and he just went over the fish. They ignored it. And it got down and started to swing this one fish just turn and swam

all the way down the pool and turned and grabbed that fly and there I was. Two pound test leader. Seven pounds steelhead on it and I was fortunate I landed it. Got him until a back eddy jumped on top of him and I heard these guys clapping up on the road there was a couple of deer hunters watching what was going on. But that that kind of started me on to pursuing steelhead and I said I was a maniac for probably the first four five years fly fishing. I spent most of my time on the Siletz. I was going to college over here and taking my class on Tuesday Thursday so I could go fishing Saturday.

Richard Bunsie [00:17:48] Sunday and Monday Wednesday and Friday. And that's what I did. And. We're real fortunate to have the Siletz river around. And it was even more fortunate then because the North Fork was a fly fishing only stream. And it was 35 miles of rock road getting up there and I could take off at 10 o'clock in the morning and get up there at noon or 1 o'clock. And find a long stretch of water with fish pooled up laying in ripples that had not been bothered all day. And it was just a gorgeous place to fish. Became kind of my home water for quite a while. I spent a lot of time on it and I really learned a lot about catching Steelhead. So that one experience of accidentally catching my first steelhead on a dry fly was a real memorable experience to me. There is an and I've caught my fair fair share of Brookies and brown trout and I love them. I love fishing the Bow River and the Montana streams and places catching a lot of browns and stuff but there's something about... That I really like about wild fish is is there part of that whole system. Now there's a connection to everything else that that's there. It kind of breaks my heart when I see a little stream like the Gale Creek where I lived on up here full of little. Native cutthroats and they dump in a whole bunch of coho on top of them. To stimulate the ocean fishery. Yeah. I feel kind of bad for the cutthroats but. Yeah I really like wild fish and I think that there's room for for other things and certainly other. There are habitats that are beyond repair that you really need to. If you're going to have a recreational fishery at all, manage it differently. But where where there are wild fish and where it's possible to save them I really would prioritize that. I think that's that should be its primary purpose of preserving all things.

Richard Bunsie [00:20:22] Animals. All the things that the natively or naturally live there should be preserved in a national park. I think fish is no different thing. I've seen what's happened to Yellowstone it breaks my heart. The cutthroat fishery was back in the early 70s was phenomenal. And. It's just nothing like it was just because somehow this lake trout got introduced you know. And. I don't know if it's going to be solvable or not. But I think it's absolutely necessary to preserve wild fish. And prioritize them in places like that. Some of the rivers in Yellowstone for instance do have brown trout and Brooke trout. They've been introduced. But I don't know if it's possible to really revert back to the way it was. But I certainly think it would be a priority to try to do that whenever it it's possible. Well I think it would be easier to do it in places like that. Probably if you're looking to be to be successful there's a lot lot about the ecosystem that we don't understand or they don't take into consideration. What are you going to do? Poison that section and kill everything and then what. What else have you killed. How many salamanders and how many tailed frogs and things like that have now been eliminated so that you can replace it with some wild genes of one trout. So. We do have a lot of places in Oregon especially small small streams that that have we have waterfall and just about all of the streams of the Klamath river. And there are native wild cutthroat up nearly all of those streams. I don't know very many of them have anything other than that. And it's really fortunate they're there. I've been just fascinated with the cutthroat in the Willamette Valley for all my life. You know I grew up catching them on that little Creek at night. I lived up in the Post range up here Teel Creek. And I think probably one of my home streams I would call it is a Little Luckiamute River. Both little and big Luckiamute but the Luckiamute river in particular. Yeah. It's a cutthroat fishery. And it would go through some abuse you know opening

season they truck lots of rainbows up there and dump them in and stuff which don't last long unfortunately. But I've. But anyway I I I became just really fascinated with the cutthroat and I started kind of studying them and.

Richard Bunsie [00:23:45] Trying to figure out what's going on. Reading a lot of studies done the research department at Oregon State, things in the library. Unpublished and published thesis things and stuff. It's a fascinating population because its so diverse that native cutthroat live up in the Willamette are big and spawn in some of these tributaries and some live in the large tributaries and spawn in the upper tributaries and some live in this tributary that spawn in another tributary and there a fish that they don't. They're not really suitable for raising in hatcheries because they're pretty delicate. But their strength is in that diversity. And it's a fascinating species to me. And it's not just the Willamette Valley it's all over I mean just cutthroat in the Rocky Mountains and in southern south southwestern states and all these different species. Bhenke back in Colorado with a lot of studies on. He cutthroat fished with Pat Schroeder who did a book on cutthroat. Yeah. I just find it a fascinating critter. You know and all the rest of it.

James Thull [00:25:08] Yeah we have Bhenke's papers in the library. Yeah I think we've certainly turned starting to realize that and perhaps have turned a corner on it. Cuts like you said are delicate and that's always been one of my concerns is when do you lose that, you know when you get the cut Browns and the cut bows and you know I mean they they seem to. If we don't do something to almost isolate them you'll lose that genetic makeup and even like out here you know one watershed to a different they can be very similar but still genetically slightly different.

Richard Bunsie [00:25:41] In the Willamette There is a hybrid a hybridisation between the Rainbow and cutthroat. Fortunately there's a lot of spatial separation in the spawning which helps. In that real wide diversity of life history within that population. A lot of value anyway of help preserve them because.

Richard Bunsie [00:26:05] Things can go real sour in the Luckiamute, in the Rickreall creek, Mary's River. Might have a population receding. The strength is the diversity of the population, not in the fish itself. I think they're doing a lot of things better than they used to do. Obviously. They do. Take wild trout wild fish into consideration. Even when they're planting more than they used to. I think the problem is really everything is such an uphill battle for managing anything now because you know you've got four times the population we had when I was a kid in the valley. They're intensively farming this country using all kinds of chemicals. And and just a lot of fisheries are going south and it doesn't matter whether you manage them for wild fish or hatchery fish or whatever. You don't have rivers with the quality left to sustain life. It doesn't matter you know. But overall I think that the Fish and Wildlife Commission or Fish and Wildlife department in Oregon has done a reasonably good job of it. There's always a little things that I'd like to see them do that they don't do. Many things here and there. But I can't think of a specific thing at the moment right off the top of my head. One thing that I find really troubling is I sat down one night recently and I listed my top 10 places to go fishing locally not just not. I mean I'm not talking about running off to New Zealand to go to Montana. But if I was going to just take off and go fishing I'd pick 10 places that I would normally have gone fishing and not one of them is accessible. They either have had problems with people dumping and living living in them until they blocked off you know put big stones in front of campgrounds that you can't get into anymore, places that you used to be able to drive down into the riparian zone on the Klamath river and then hike up and down the river to go fishing. They got locked off now because many people are going for four wheel drive and tearing up or dumping tires

and they're doing you know even even boat ramps now. Greens bridge is to go to Greens Bridge and wander up the river. You can't go into Greens bridge unless you're launching or picking up a boat. They won't let you in there.

Richard Bunsie [00:29:20] So it's just that kind of access is really really a problem and we've got you know we've got better stream access in Oregon than a lot of states do because we have the high water mark thing going and we do have a lot of really good streams on public land. It seems like the Deschutes and the Metolius like that but for the small streams like the Luckiamute, Sandy Adams, different places access has become a real problem. And then the quality of the water of the rivers is taken a real beating in the last several years. We had a governor in Oregon named Tom McCall. You heard him or not. The Klamath river was in a disastrous shape. Declared it dead in Portland, you know for a long time there was a lot of industry just dumping all kinds of things into it. There was a lot of booms everywhere in the river. Every city had its back to it was dumping trash in it. And Tom McCall was a Republican governor back in the late 60s early 70s. And he decided that it needed to be cleaned up and he got a program going to clean up industrial pollution in the river by having to have permits to pollute. You know it really worked. And over how about a number of years 8 or 10 years the river cleaned up substantially. When I when I was a kid, I could go to the river in Salem and there were signs on the river say do not swim, contaminated water. And when I got back from Vietnam in 69 there was salmon running in the Mill Creek in downtown Salem. And I remember going down there and just sitting on the beach and watching the salmon fighting for Reds and things you, I'd never seen that before in the local streams. And things got better and better until they started getting worse and worse. And as we've had now I've had a I've been involved with the gallery in independents now for 20 years. When I first moved in there 20 years ago there were prolific hatches on the Multnomah and I could go down in the evening and I wasn't catching Brown trout but I was able to catch chissel mouth my favorite and pike minnows and all these kinds of things and just for kicks have fish rising. And 20 years later I don't see a rise in that river. I can count on one hand the number rises I saw this last summer down here because everything has changed. They're using some really brand new chemicals on all the farm land. They've got (unintelligible) there much bigger than they used to be. And there's all kinds of waste coming from there. And everybody wants the green lawn and they dump all kinds of chemicals on it all that goes into the river. Every little tributary that runs in that river is extensively farmed and they take all the riparian habitat out. The water warms up and so I just have seen a lot of degradation and it's I find it really depressing. But. There's still good fishing in the state. You've got to just work harder to find it. Travel further get it pay for it when you have to sometimes.

Richard Bunsie [00:33:00] I think the big change is going to be climate change. I don't think we really have any concept of how dramatic things are going to change. With the. Not only resident fish but an anadromous fish. Feeding patterns in the oceans and all the things that are happening. You know it's it's it's it's not one dimensional it's a Rubik's cube. This you know. I mean there's seals killing fish there's dams killing fish. You know. Low water killing fish these things you know just ocean conditions and all these things that are that are happening it would be nice if there was a simple thing where you'd say OK we've got this problem this problem this problem lets prioritize to let's take care of it. Another thing problem is we don't have a government that prioritizes that kind of thing. It's not high on the list when they start making budgets. No I don't. There has been a tendency for I think... There's always been a tendency but I think it's gotten more so for everybody to be very short sighted not look at things in the long term. Had a fellow I lived by out at Tail Creek back in the 70s was 89 years old and he cut 40 acres of alder trees off his land and got several thousand brand new little furs and was planting because it was the right thing

to do. You know I don't think there's as many people would do that nowadays because they're not going to be living to see those fir trees. And I think it's pervasive in our whole society and our politics. Let's do what we can do to make more money tomorrow or have more things tomorrow and not do things that will make it better for people that are living 200 years from now.

Richard Bunsie [00:35:31] Well yeah I think obviously it's important to pass on that ethic and try to instill that in the new generations that are coming out. It's harder now I think because of all the distractions. It's so much easier to play video games. And. You know there's a lot of things like paintball and everything else that can distract people. They're not you know I think you know when I was a kid most kids I knew were they didn't have anything to do, were out of riding your bike or running around the country playing in the street, doing something you know. Yeah. I don't see that happening as much unfortunately anymore. So you almost have to have some kind of program to introduce people to the things that would normally be able to previously probably.

James Thull [00:36:39] Yeah yeah. I grew up on a my family had a farm in Wisconsin and my all summer my mom out of the house. She didn't care what we did. She just wanted us out. You know and so we built forts and fished and swam in rivers. Yeah you know did those kind of things and now kids are you know and I can't say that if the technology that existed today existed when I was 13 I wouldn't be doing the same thing.

Richard Bunsie [00:37:04] I agree I would be susceptible to that myself. And you know well I grew up as a little kid, my mom was the same way. I was out of the house and I could we had you know like a 100 acre woods behind your house and I just head out into to when I was 8 or 9 years old. Come back later you know and then crawl around, you know grab, chipmunks catch trout. Climb trees do whatever I could do you know. And you didn't have to worry about whether your kid was within eyesight or yelling range . So things have changed you know.

Richard Bunsie [00:37:56] I think it's very important for them to be involved at least financially supporting financially but to be supportive of it in as many ways they can. I still try to be supportive financially nowadays but I haven't been as involved as I used to be more involved with groups. When you had that interview I noticed with Bill Bakke, He was an amazing guy in Oregon and Washington. The amount of time he spent and energy he spent advocating for salmon and steelhead and rivers. We get a few hundred more Bill Bakke's around might make a big difference. He's an exception. But it is important to be involved. You know I was involved peripherally in that or at least started an organization called Oregon Trout back in the 80s and it was around for a while and we did a lot of good things. Bill Bakke was the head of it in the beginning but it had a structure that was, we had directors from around the state. I was a Klamath valley director. Directors Deschute County out here here and all these different areas and and there were things going on that we were able to keep track of and get involved with, programs and problems that we could respond to that that would have not happened had that organization not been around for that amount of time. And it's important for that it takes a lot of energy and it's not not as rewarding sometimes as you like to think it would be.

James Thull [00:40:12] Yeah I'm sure it can be more frustrating victories might be few and far between.

Richard Bunsie [00:40:16] Yeah yeah. It takes a lot sometimes, you know go to a public hearing process or some like the road series or thing we get back there to for ever public

hearings and stuff and then they throw it out the window and so when nobody did it well enough we to do it over again. You know that kind of stuff can go on and on and on. There's a lot of frustration involved in things like that. You gotta just go. If you don't if you if you have people around that you know that are into it, lean on them you know and ask questions. If you don't there's there's a lot of organizations around that are really good. You know there's one in Salem Salem Fly Casters and several one in Albany one in Corvallis. There's just a bunch of people that speak the same language that they like to get together. Talk about it. Go on outings and things. And if you don't have a connection to it you don't have a father in it or you don't know you're not involved with somebody else, take advantage of that. It really is a big help. You know you can learn a lot in a much shorter period of time. There was no organization around I was a kid.

Richard Bunsie [00:41:47] I just kind of slipped into fly fishing over a long period of time because there just wasn't. You had to send to Seattle to to Herders to get fly tying equipment feathers and things and there was nobody around. Hardly. You see a fly fisherman on a river was a real rarity. You know. I ran into an old guy his wife with waders, vest, fly rods. I was nine years old I just had my rear end down the river from Salem to catch cutthroats on a worm. I saw these people I thought they were like from a different planet. What is this? I like somebody that that... I like a good conversation. I like fishing with people that don't have to talk about fishing all the time. You know. I like spending time in a drift boat fishing with somebody that I don't I kind of categorize people I guess. There are people I would spend a day in a drift boat with the people that I won't spend the day in a drift boat with. People I like to spend on the day in a drift boat with are people that I'm comfortable with that I enjoy talking with them. Conversing about whatever and I like to fish on their own. And know when to be quiet and a few people in my life that I've fished a lot with like Dave Hughes. I used to go to Montana with Dave a lot and Dave's a predator. It's fun watching him fish. He's just totally focused but he he when we would set up camp, he would go fishing. I would go fishing. You know. And and we would get back to the camp and have wonderful talks and things. But it was. He liked to be by himself when he fished and so did I. We'd drive back to Montana. Sometimes we'd fish for a few days, and then stopped by his brother's place in Butte Montana. He'd borrow brother's car and I go fishing and he'd go fishing you and we'd meet back up and. And. I always I liked I find a few people I just a lot of people I just really love them. Be around them like. spending time with them but fishing with them is a problem because they want to stand next to you.

Richard Bunsie [00:44:57] And talk.

James Thull [00:44:59] It's different. Being a good friend and a good fishing partner.

Richard Bunsie [00:45:02] Yeah yeah. And I I'm. I like to really get focused and have the whole experience take over. A good fishing partner is usually somebody like that. Well it's real special to me. First time I fished in Montana I was 19 and I was just graduated high school a year before. And I went, my brother taught at University of Montana in Missoula and. He taught there for 30 years. I went back there for the whole summer with him and I didn't have a car I was with him. I could borrow his car occasionally. So I fished locally and fished on the Clark fork right in town. I would get up on the on the Bitterroot and I would get up on Rattlesnake Creek and I'd get up on a few of the local stream go up to Rock Creek once a while and I just loved Montana and I kept going back. And before I was married I didn't get married till I was 28 before I was married. I would go back every summer just about and spend in Montana. And I fell in love with the streams around there and I loved a lot of water in Montana. I love fishing the Big Horn and the Missouri and and streams around Yellowstone. But but I had a particular affinity for the streams around

Missoula, I liked fishing the Jocko and Rock Creek. Places like that. I like that kind of environment. There's just something about that. And then there's so many good streams on the way way there. I used to have a hard time getting through Idaho sometimes if I went through Lewiston. I like the St Joe. Yeah. After I got married I didn't go as long, I would go at least couple of times a year. Back then I started fishing more the eastern part then not quite as much of the western part but fishing up on Missouri a lot. Big Horn, Yellowstone and Henry Fork back when it was good. I I I do a lot of I've done a lot of illustration in the past which tends to be bugs and fish fortunately as I've gotten to know Henry and I've gotten to do other things you know poetry books and things. But I I was doing a lot of landscapes for a while.

Richard Bunsie [00:48:29] I also do a lot of figerative drawing. I love life drawing and I have a group that meets every week and we do that. But there's really a very fine line between landscaping and figure drawing anyway. I, I find a connection with well with fishing and art. It's very hard to explain. It's a way of, fishing to me as a way of connecting with those with the earth and those critters and that that whole system. And art is the same way. Art and making art and fly fishing. Both have this component where observation is a key and with art I'm always observing. I can sit and look at the landscape and I do a quick sketch of it and go back another time when the lights different. Do another sketch. And I go and just look at it and think about it. A painting may take 10 hours or something but it takes months of sometimes thinking about a painting in your head pondering it. I know where I want to go but I never get there. I get somewhere else sometimes much better place sometimes not. I generally have an idea not of a specific thing I want to paint but something in nature I want to create or work too. And with the landscape, if I'm looking at a specific landscape, I really try to analyze it. I look at it. I look at how light is affecting things. What summit leaves are like in front of a conifer. Or how this grass is and this kind of light. Now this how I really look specifically at those things and I think about them I sketch them and stuff but then when it comes down to that image I'm not really trying to paint that place like. I could take a photo of that place but paint a painting that makes somebody say well that looks like that area because I want to get the feeling of. I want to get the essence of it and. That by doing that you just have to do a lot of observation and percolate it. Fly fishing the same way, you've got to really observe and watch the way critters are moving and what the light's like how the bugs are hatching and what bugs are hatching and take into consideration all these endless variables that are involved in it. Oh. Yeah. No it's not a purpose. I mean I don't do it purposefully. I do it because it's just a thing. It's something that is the way I am. I am a visual person. I relate to the world differently. And so people don't do it in different aspects of it but everything is great. And it's not like one way right or wrong. That's the way I relate to things you know. I don't feel like I I'm I don't do the type of art I don't think in terms of like some people do. I have a statement I want to make. I just see things that fry my bacon that I guess the way I deal with that is by creating things.