

coloradowomanflyfishers-2017-02-24.mp4

Rheana Gavagan [00:00:10] I'm currently the president of the Colorado Women Fishers.

Craige Stainton [00:00:13] And I was a board member for a long time and president for six years and charter member helped get the organization started back in 1997.

Chris Prelaz [00:00:23] And I'm a current member and was the trip coordinator.

James Thull [00:00:27] And you guys celebrating a 20 year anniversary this year, is that correct? Excellent. Well, congratulations. So that's a great achievement.

Rheana Gavagan [00:00:43] You like to start?

Craige Stainton [00:00:46] You know, you're right. So many people say, what does fishing mean to you? And I think as many people get asked the question, you get that many answers.

Craige Stainton [00:00:56] And fly fishing to me has been a wonderful way, and fishing in general, but fly fishing in particular has been a wonderful way to enrich my life by meeting so many wonderful people. When I was really active on the board and active with international women fly fishers as well, I was able to meet all sorts of people. Joan Wulff, you know I had Joan riding around in my car and that was one of my highlights.

Craige Stainton [00:01:25] Lefty Kreh decided one afternoon as I was going into some casting competitions that he would help change my casting style.

Craige Stainton [00:01:34] Right before I was to go cast. Meeting people, meeting people like these two wonderful ladies sitting on either side of me has enriched my life so much with being able to get outside, see beautiful fish, experience different parts of nature, and also helping other people learn to fish. So helping develop our club, our organization has been a huge part of my life over the last 20 years. That's that's my little story.

James Thull [00:02:08] Excellent.

Rheana Gavagan [00:02:10] Craige, I couldn't agree with you more. I feel all those things as well. And I think if I had to sum it up in one story, it would actually be the first time I ever went fishing with Colorado Women Fly Fishers was actually my very first time fly fishing, as a matter of fact. And I had been to a couple of the meetings and I had, you know, learned a little bit about fly fishing and what we should be doing. And I went out for my very first river trip. And this wonderful group of ladies was there. And I had decided that I didn't know quite enough yet to get out on the river. I didn't have any confidence yet. So I show up my pair of cutoff shorts and my tennis shoes and my rod that I had gotten from a friend and had no idea how I set it up whatsoever. And I walked up to the group and I said, Hey, I'm here. I'm just spectating today. I just want to learn from you by watching what you do. And, you know, I'm hoping maybe in a couple of trips I can actually get out on the water. And one of the wonderful ladies looked at me and said, there is no spectating in fly-fishing. And that she took my rod and with her own materials and her own leaders and tippets, she set me up and I caught first fish on fly rod that day. So it was it was wonderful. And it really taught me that you just can't stand on the sidelines.

Rheana Gavagan [00:03:34] You need to jump in there. You need to do it. And it's really it allowed me to not only have these wonderful relationships and these people that I've met, but also explore more of Colorado and really get out there and not be afraid to just try a new trail, try a new river, try a new adventure.

Chris Prelaz [00:03:52] Yes, I agree with all that. I I've been in Colorado maybe about five and half years. And so I hate to admit I had been attempting to fish for over 20 years. And I just want to move past it. I said, you know, I'm just not very good at this why am I not very good at this? Because I was trying to do a lot by myself and didn't have people I was hanging out in this to kind of, you know, help you out or, you know, I'd catch a fish here and there. But I just said I just really should better at this point. So I made it a goal when I moved here to get better. I'm not quite sure why. But anyway, so I started Googling and found the group and went to my first meeting and I remember as well, the very first trip that I went along and didn't know a soul, you know, and it was right in the back of the car and it was just.

Chris Prelaz [00:04:38] And since then, the relationships that had just developed from there.

Chris Prelaz [00:04:42] I mean, just to the best of friends and the group means a whole lot and has fostered my skill and Rheana

Chris Prelaz [00:04:52] And I've, you know, partnered and done some some charity rodeos and things like that and just become awesome friends and partners in fishing.

Chris Prelaz [00:05:01] But it's really about not only that, but just where it takes you and what it does for you. And that's just as you, Rheana alluded to, that just the beautiful places. And I love to explore. And just being in nature. And so to me, it's not all about the catching fish or fishing itself, but it's you know, to me, it's mentally soothing, is challenging. And just, again, their relationships are just incredible.

Chris Prelaz [00:05:27] So.

Rheana Gavagan [00:05:35] Well, Colorado, when fly fishers, we are a sociable club, but we also have a mission statement that we want to promote, encourage and promote and encourage women in the sport of fly fishing, sport and ethics of fly fishing. And so education is really at the base of our of our organization. We put a lot of our time and effort into that. And we're also a nonprofit group as well. And that's why we have the nonprofit status, because we do put our energy and our money back into educating women in this wonderful sport.

Craig Stainton [00:06:09] And I want to make sure that whoever's listening to this heard her say socialable, not social for the IRS.

Craig Stainton [00:06:17] I had a discussion about an IRS person.

Craig Stainton [00:06:19] Oh, social club. You can't but you can't have that nontaxable socialable. Did you read that? Yeah.

Craig Stainton [00:06:26] So we are socialable.

James Thull [00:06:30] Anything you'd like to add about the History about.

Rheana Gavagan [00:06:35] Well Craige Is one of our charter membors, as she mentioned so

Craige Stainton [00:06:37] So I just I you know, I don't know how much this had to do with getting us started or not, but I wrote an article for our newsletter a couple months ago talking about the first time I went into a flying shop in Denver asking about the like a tennis ladder for fly fishing.

Craige Stainton [00:06:57] And I said, where's your list of women who fly fish? Because I don't have anybody to fly fish with.

Craige Stainton [00:07:02] And it wasn't too long after that that the shop put up a little sign and a group of women, and husbands and boyfriends started coming in once a month and we would meet.

Craige Stainton [00:07:15] And then we heard that there was going to be an organization or a meeting of the conclave in San Francisco in 1996.

Craige Stainton [00:07:25] International Festival of Women Fly Fishers.

Craige Stainton [00:07:29] And at that at that gathering, we a few as five or six of us from our little fly shop group went and we were able to get enough contacts to where we were motivated to come back and formalize our group. And we did it. That was in December. And by January, we we had our first meeting. And and it's been wonderful ever since. Been a lot of work. But I think that we've done a lot of good in in in our community. Fly fishing community, river cleanups and education and working with Girl Scouts, all sorts of things.

Rheana Gavagan [00:08:07] Exactly. We partner with many of the other organizations in the area to do things, as you mentioned, that the river cleanups and the conservation and education, not only just our members, but also the community. We try to do projects where we have clinics for, you know, even children, you know, all sorts. So we really try to do as much as we can to get involved with the other organizations that are doing great things out there. It is absolutely important. I think it's important not only in fly fishing, but in anything we do as human beings. The more diversity we have in the groups, the more enriching that experience is going to be. So in my personal opinion, I think the best way to do that is again, education and partnering with these groups, not only conservation groups like Trout Unlimited and Federation of Fly Fishers, but also even just the local fly shops and letting you know we have an organization here that's, you know, promoting women in fly fishing and getting them started, you know, get the word out. So it's really word of mouth, I think is a very powerful tool.

Chris Prelaz [00:09:29] I think it's a I think definitely it would be important.

Chris Prelaz [00:09:32] I think probably takes again, kind of just the different effort to to try to reach out to foster that a little bit differently. Same thing with minorities, because they may just not be in the with the people that are currently fly fishing I think that they may not be pursuing us. We should probably reach out more to those populations that may not have the exposure or the people. You know, we probably all grew up with our dads taking us somewhere, you know, and that may or may not happen today with children. So, but I

think particularly young girls. I think it would be great to try to find some groups that might be interested in doing that.

Craige Stainton [00:10:15] I don't know about you're going out with your dad, but I went out with my mom.

Craige Stainton [00:10:21] My mom (unintelligible) angler in rivers in Alabama so that oh, my Gosh, she goes sit in her lawn chair, read her book, and I'd be there with my Zebco spincast bait cast that I saved up my babysitting money for. And that was my first earlier fishing days, although my first fishing days were when I was really young.

Craige Stainton [00:10:41] We mentioned a little while ago that about fishing in Japan, they would not fly fishing, but the little bread dough balls on cane poles, not tenkara rods either.

Craige Stainton [00:10:55] Over the years we've had we've had a number of members and we at one point we were debating whether we would have men in the club or not men in the club.

Craige Stainton [00:11:05] And it went so that we we decide we would just be women and we would certainly invite people to come with us, but we would have women as members. And we had a lot of moms over the years bringing their kids and bring their sons out to fish with us.

Craige Stainton [00:11:24] And I think that's been wonderful. And it's fun for some of us who like being around kids or don't mind or or have a willing audience to listen to whatever we want to teach that day. And so, yes, it is important. That's the next generation.

Craige Stainton [00:11:38] That's how do you teach the difference between right and wrong and then taking care of the environment, taking care of animals.

Craige Stainton [00:11:47] How do you how do you in a humane way, release your fish?

Craige Stainton [00:11:52] So somebody is gonna teach kids and how to pass on the love for fishing.

James Thull [00:12:00] Yeah, that was my I was raised by a single mother who's my mom who took me fishing when I was a kid too. She didn't fish, but she would she made sure that I got out and did the things that I wanted to do.

Rheana Gavagan [00:12:11] My early fishing experiences were family based fishing outings. And my mother and my stepfather and myself would go to the river and throw the bait out there for the catfish and sit on the bank. And it was just a nice family experience.

Rheana Gavagan [00:12:28] But I think it is so important to get the children out, and whether it's camping or fishing or hiking or all of the above, just to do get them out there, do something you can't respect, something that you don't know anything about. So if you can get them out there and and get them to the point where they are really enjoying themselves, they can understand that concept of I want to preserve this for for the next person down the line, or see what I can do to make sure that this tree is still here tomorrow.

James Thull [00:13:00] Absolute.

Craige Stainton [00:13:06] I think our national parks and our state parks are really important.

Craige Stainton [00:13:10] It allows management of the terrain, what goes into the rivers, what can come out of the rivers, whether or not you can catch and release or catch and keep.

Craige Stainton [00:13:30] You have close seasons for the health of the fish.

Craige Stainton [00:13:37] People can't go in and molest them during their spawning times. A lot of, you know, seasonal requirements.

Craige Stainton [00:13:45] I think that that also I think you have a better chance of having a stream in its natural state when it's inside a park so that you don't have people building houses on the banks and and camping and dumping their waste into it, into the streams. So I think it if it's a protection mechanism and kind of like a living museum for us, too.

Rheana Gavagan [00:14:14] And it's a point of focus.

Rheana Gavagan [00:14:15] So definitely all those things. Plus it is a place where people can go to see all those wonderful things. And there are park rangers there that are there to educate them on how to properly interact with all of those things. So, you know, people aren't just running amok necessarily. There's a place people can go and learn how to to interact in a responsible manner and enjoy it along with everyone else.

Chris Prelaz [00:14:43] And I just probably sum it up in the same word, like preservation and protection from us people, from people in general.

Chris Prelaz [00:14:51] And just to conserve, to preserve the beauty of it and the overall management for us to be able to experience.

Chris Juvan [00:14:58] I think it can so all not just the fishing wildlife, but all of the wildlife in that designated area and fish are just one element of the whole.

Chris Juvan [00:15:15] So I think it creates more respect from people who are using that visit. If you know there are rules and you know, someone's watching and you too are somewhat protected by those rules and that someone is watching as well.

Rheana Gavagan [00:15:41] I happen to love the Arkansas River, and I think that I love so many of the rivers that we tend to go to.

Rheana Gavagan [00:15:47] But I really like the Arkansas River just because I'm in a single day, not to mention, you know, a gold medal river, of course, but you can be anywhere from the canyon to the cityscape to, you know, flatlands and fish that same river and have those, you know, those native browns in there. So and I think I also just have a lot of very good memories tied to times fishing on the Arkansas River. So it's it's a very nostalgic place for me to be. But it's I just love fishing that river.

Craige Stainton [00:16:25] I think the river that holds a special place in my heart is the Henry Fork River, up behind where the A Bar used to exist. I understand that it's been torn

down several years ago, but oh gosh, we used to go there every June bout June 15th opening of the ranch, and fish with a bunch of old men who were probably younger then than I am now.

Craige Stainton [00:16:51] But oh my gosh, it just a good opportunity to catch a fish and see rising fish out there having green drakes pop up out of the water.

Craige Stainton [00:17:04] And I learned so much from him.

Craige Stainton [00:17:06] Patience, how to walk in a river.

Craige Stainton [00:17:14] How to swim in a river was once in a while, too, at that stretch. But Henry's Fork.

Chris Prelaz [00:17:22] I do not have a special river. I'd love to just go and explore all kinds of different places. Like to read about it in a book or online. Just the other day, somebody mentioned somewhere where's that Google it and just want to go and check it out. And so to me, it's just about some of the newness of the experience and seeing something new. I mean, catch fish, but that's OK.

Chris Juvan [00:17:48] My favorite place to fish is where I am fishing at the moment.

Craige Stainton [00:17:52] Oh, yeah. You would say something like that. [Laughter] It's a good one.

Chris Juvan [00:17:58] I frequently get asked that question and I frequently have to think about it.

Chris Juvan [00:18:04] And it really is where fishing at the moment, because it doesn't matter if I'm fishing with our group, which typically has more people fishing, that you know, when you're having fun and you're sharing ideas and you're sharing flies and you're sharing lunch and you're having laughs and you know, it's a great, great time.

Chris Juvan [00:18:31] Or if I'm more in a metropolitan area. For instance, below Pueblo Dam. And it's right out of the city. And there's a lot of people and different types of people that are fishing in different ways. Once I get into the Zen of it I'm there by myself figuring out what the fish are eating, casting to them or casting where I think they're laying, I'm thinking about the weather or thinking where my dog's located. It's it's where I'm fishing at the time.

Rheana Gavagan [00:19:14] Our club is lucky enough to have a fairly decent library and we're trying to build that as we go, and it's a lot of books that have been donated to us.

Rheana Gavagan [00:19:25] So I volunteered to be the librarian for the club so I could have all those books on my home and, you know, just go through them.

Rheana Gavagan [00:19:33] So, you know, I honestly can't pick one here at the moment, but there is just so much wonderful literature, especially with what's been donated to us. You know, give me any.

Rheana Gavagan [00:19:45] I'll read them all. It's

Chris Juvan [00:19:47] Well, what's the author's name? I can't think of his first name.

Chris Juvan [00:19:53] Gierach. John. OK. He's my favorite. He's a local. He's out of Lyons, Colorado. And his stories just are just hit home. Waters that I fished or things that have happened to him. I've read his books and it's made me laugh out loud, which I can't remember another book that's made me do that before. So he would have to be my favorite.

Chris Prelaz [00:20:27] Probably not a book in the way of reading but Schwietser, only because he's written a couple of books here that pertain to Colorado specifically. And I love the color and the pictures and his books are just really nice. And a lot of them involve hiking, which I like to do as well. And so I think it's more the photography and those kind of things have the appeal of what he shows in his book.

Craig Stainton [00:20:54] One of the favorite sources of information that I have. I remember looking at over and over and over and over again.

Craig Stainton [00:21:02] Yet it's Joan Wulff's fly casting VHS tape, and [Laughter].

Rheana Gavagan [00:21:07] They have those on YouTube now (Laughter).

Craig Stainton [00:21:18] That was, the VHS machines in the (unintelligible). And I remember trying to get out a cast and I want to start start distance casting. And I would go out there and I mean, I would I would watch the video and then I would go out there and draw and draw.

Craig Stainton [00:21:29] And I've seen her cast, you know, demo casting and try to add something. And I didn't figure I could ever do two rods at once.

Craig Stainton [00:21:39] And I know I don't want to try high heels or cocktail dress casting. But Joan Wulff fly casting video was one of my all time favorites.

Rheana Gavagan [00:21:55] Well, for me, it was definitely my family.

Rheana Gavagan [00:21:58] As a young girl, just the excitement of going out to the lake and knowing that it was going to be a picnic. And we're all just going to sit there and put the bells on the rods and wait for the bell to ring. And and and it was less interactive, but it was just a love of being with the people you were fishing with. And then also the excitement of not knowing what was on the other end of your line and seeing the bend of the rod. And that's it's just unmistakable. So as my family to begin with and I did a little fishing here and there as I was in the military and when I could but I didn't do it a lot until I came to Colorado. And then I found Colorado Fly Fishers, and they really reinvigorated my passion for fishing.

Rheana Gavagan [00:22:46] Definitely.

Craig Stainton [00:22:50] I started out fishing with my mom in Japan, and that's my screen saver pictures. Probably 60, 62 years old. That's my screen saver on my computer.

Craig Stainton [00:23:05] And I don't I don't know whether she got me to thinking about it, but when I think about fly fishing and where my fly is, it's a constant state of any second.

Craige Stainton [00:23:17] Any second, any second. All day. Every time your flies in the water, it's any second.

Craige Stainton [00:23:23] It's it's just a wonderful state of euphoria or being high or whatever.

Chris Prelaz [00:23:34] I would say my dad is from a small town in West Virginia. So when we lived a few hours away from there, when we were growing up and he used to pack us all up in his little old army jeep and take us camping, how he got us all in there had no idea.

Chris Prelaz [00:23:53] At least three of us, there were six. So my mom did go because I was quite convinced she was just wanting to get rid of us

Chris Prelaz [00:23:59] So anyway, so we did the whole camping experience right on the water. And so, you know, I just started fishing them and then the whole camping thing. And then, you know, you grow up and your life moves on to different paths.

Chris Prelaz [00:24:13] So you're in your career and those kind of things. And probably while I was in my thirties at that time, I, for whatever reason, just wanted to start going back there.

Chris Prelaz [00:24:26] And he and my brother were still always going on the guy trip and had almost kind of beg him to let me go again. Yes.

Chris Prelaz [00:24:32] I don't want to go with all you guys and just want to go and take me. So finally convince them. And so then I just kind of started kind of back in the spinfishing because that's where it started.

Chris Prelaz [00:24:42] And then from there, because I didn't like to harm the fish, I decided fly-fishing was the way to go. And so I would say definitely he was my biggest influence.

Chris Juvan [00:24:54] I feel like mine, it's an innate thing that I have inside of me.

Chris Juvan [00:25:02] It's all been self taught and it's or a lot of a great deal of it has been self taught from very young.

Chris Juvan [00:25:13] It was something I was very interested in doing. And pursued it on my own and a lot of ways. And so I feel like it's just a part of me. Type thing.

Chris Juvan [00:25:32] I have all the nice things that they've all said as well with the family get together and excitement, an annual camping and fishing trips and stuff.

Chris Juvan [00:25:45] But it was something that I insisted on doing and have I have pursued it.

Craige Stainton [00:25:54] She still insists upon doing.

James Thull [00:25:58] Excellent.

Rheana Gavagan [00:26:04] We exactly said it, it's population growth is really worrisome and the pressure that's going to put on the rivers and know we on one hand we want to encourage people to get in the sport and we want to educate people. But at the same time, that means that we're going to have to be more careful about how we treat that river, because there's more people there. And you can see it on the roadways just in Denver.

Rheana Gavagan [00:26:28] In the last couple of years, you know, people's commutes have increased threefold in some cases.

Rheana Gavagan [00:26:36] And more of those people are here because Colorado's a beautiful place. And that's pressure not only on the rivers, but also you one in the parks and in the lakes and the trails. And so it just means that we have to be even more vigilant about how we take care of those resources.

Craig Stainton [00:26:54] I think with hydroelectric power, I know one of the I guess the main mission of Trout Unlimited is to get rid of some of the dams. I think being able to have.

Craig Stainton [00:27:10] Trout and salmon have spawning areas is when I first started fly fishing, it was you stayed away from fishing Red's you stayed away. And I hear so many people talking today about, oh, you fish around the reds. Well, I just think just leave them alone.

Craig Stainton [00:27:31] I don't want anybody around when I'm having sex. So I figure the fish don't either.

Craig Stainton [00:27:37] The more crowded the rivers get, the harder it is for the fish, the more crowded our state and our country gets with development along stream side being able to to have salmon get back to where they go without being molested by every hook and every boat. I think in general population growth in the nation, in the world and in the sport. Yes, we do want to bring people in because we have to hand down our skills and our knowledge about fishing and the enjoyment of our environment. But. I don't know where your cut this or not, but darn, that movie, probably everybody knows which movie.

Craig Stainton [00:28:30] It was because the explosion on the rivers was was huge after that.

Chris Prelaz [00:28:37] I'm pretty much in the same boat to me. I I don't like to see the amount of pressure that the fish get on a constant basis in some of the areas. When I look back east, I used to go to Smoky Mountains a lot and you know, it wasn't hard. Once I knew the popular areas wasn't hard for me to be able hiking, get a way to be able to fish without, you know, without having a lot of people fishing as a matter of fact very few.

Chris Prelaz [00:29:03] When I came here, it was like, wow, you know, there's people fishing in all these places everywhere. And that's kind of where I like to explore a little bit. And so I do I am concerned about you know I think that they should have maybe certain sections, maybe give them a rest, at leave at certain times. And the ones that are heavily fished and then obviously climate change if you believe in that.

Chris Prelaz [00:29:30] But I do. And so I think that that certainly is something that is concerning in the future.

Chris Juvan [00:29:38] I think conservation, conservation. Thank you. Has to get greater, there has to be bigger rules. There has to be more stringent regulations of those rules to protect all of our our all our national parks our state parks. Even our city parks to ensure that the wildlife, including the fish can go, can go on and survive, especially in a state like Colorado that's getting more and more populated.

Chris Juvan [00:30:17] As we go.

Rheana Gavagan [00:30:28] Send me to Argentina Patagonia? Yeah, I'll stick with the trout. I'd be happy to do that.

Chris Prelaz [00:30:34] Pretty much, yeah.

Craige Stainton [00:30:36] I I wouldn't mind Argentina been to New Zealand. So I've caught big fish there, but I'd have to fly first class. OK.

Craige Stainton [00:30:45] (unintelligible)

Craige Stainton [00:30:47] OK, so first class, I get I get to lay down on the airplane and sleep.

Craige Stainton [00:30:52] I'd love to go to Patagonia. But you know what? I'd also love to go to Nepal. Oh, my gosh. So wonderful.

Craige Stainton [00:31:00] I don't know what you catch there. I mean, I I do if I intellectualize it, I think I do. But just different a different culture. Different culture. That's what I like to.

Chris Prelaz [00:31:12] Anywhere really would be fine with me.

Chris Juvan [00:31:15] Speaking of which, I would go to Wyoming. Less population less, population on the rivers, a lot more fish so varied. And where you could fish, how you could fish with most all trout. Which which is why I go for and spend a great deal of time there for a little money, which would last a long time so I could get lost in Wyoming.

Chris Juvan [00:31:55] Really easy.

Craige Stainton [00:31:57] Wait a minute. You have been lost in Wyoming.

Chris Juvan [00:32:01] More than once. [Laughter]

Craige Stainton [00:32:01] I've been there to witness it.

Chris Juvan [00:32:05] Yeah. You were driving. [Laughter]

Rheana Gavagan [00:32:11] My husband did tell me, though, you know, at somepoint we need to start planning this trip just in case that rich you know never shows up. He warned me that if we actually do make it all the way down to Patagonia, we have to set foot on Antantica. This has to happen.

Chris Prelaz [00:32:35] The colors are just beautiful. And then where they're located, like some of the high mountains, lakes that. You know, I'll hike to. And I just just see them in the water. The colors are so vivid.

Rheana Gavagan [00:32:49] And knowing what a struggle they had to to be there, you know? And I said, you're going to these pristine places and these pristine rivers to catch them.

Rheana Gavagan [00:33:01] And, you know, it seems like there's just been so much work that's been done to keep them keep them in the rivers as best we can. So it's it's really special to see that even in my generation and hopefully my daughter's generation and they're still going to be there. Right. That's what I think is really special about it, that it's been a hard road, but yet we're still learning.

Chris Juvan [00:33:28] When we're in the Green River for the last couple years, this summer, there is a section of hot springs that has an endangered species in it.

Chris Juvan [00:33:40] I think if I remember the signs said this is the only place those fish are today. And it's literally 500 yards or less. It's it's not fenced off. You can walk right up to it. And we couldn't, we never spotted one of them. But I guess when the when they're spawning, they turn a brilliant color, which I suspect that's when you really be able to see them in this small creek. But to know that that was the only place that these fish to survive and that they were in such a vulnerable spot because the road along the Green River goes right over the top of this small spring area that comes up. There's dust flying there're two parking lots, parking areas, I shouldn't say lots.

Chris Juvan [00:34:43] Next to this, this little bit of stream that comes through these brilliant colors that you mentioned.

Chris Juvan [00:34:52] I'm not sure what kind of vegetation is coming up in this little bit of hot springs, but it's amazing to see today. I think especially on the Green River.

Chris Juvan [00:35:05] So Upper Green that those places do exist. That's like how much longer is this going to exist?

Chris Juvan [00:35:15] Because they're so close to the road because they're not completely fenced off.

Chris Juvan [00:35:22] You can walk right through it if you had a mind to do that.

Chris Juvan [00:35:25] Your dog could walk right through it and disturb all of this. In a short time, kill this habitat and kill the fish, of course. So, you know, conservation is the key. To all of that I feel like I mentioned earlier. If they do put more rules there, if they back you up, if they put a whole cover, which, of course, it can't do that would ruin the habitat where you could look down into it, but you didn't have access to person. So it was that's why I really like go on to Wyoming, because you get those opportunities where you can actually see that type of stuff.

Chris Juvan [00:36:14] When I was a kid, we went to Yellowstone Park and you used to be able to walk right up to Old Faithful. The hole. And now it's fenced off, its back. You can't look at it. I can remember when I was a kid and Polaroid cameras were there.

Chris Juvan [00:36:34] There were wrappings from Polaroid film.

Chris Juvan [00:36:39] And when we went into the visitors center at the time, they said people are actually putting these wrappers down, old faithful. Just see what kind of effect it would have seen. They could see an immediate effect. Well, of course, they didn't kind of thing. So I was pleased to go back there several years ago to see it's fenced all the way back. You can't just look into the hole any more.

Chris Juvan [00:37:06] So I think conversate, conversate, conservation.

Chris Juvan [00:37:17] ...nothing. [Laughter] Share everything.

James Thull [00:37:23] To join a club.

Chris Juvan [00:37:24] Absolutely,.

Craige Stainton [00:37:25] Chris. Chris is one of the most generous anglers with her time on the river with a new angler.

Craige Stainton [00:37:32] She. She doesn't hesitate to offer help or offer flies, but she's a wonderful fly tier, too.

Craige Stainton [00:37:41] She will give you the fly off her line.

Chris Juvan [00:37:46] Well, maybe not. [Unintelligible].

Chris Juvan [00:37:52] And that comes from a history as well. When I first started fly fishing, there weren't a lot of women in fly fishing. And there weren't a lot of men accepting of it. Or maybe not, accepting, but thinking that women didn't have the potential to do it. So when I was would approach men and say, what are you using? I'm using a fly.

Chris Juvan [00:38:27] And that same thing would happen to me when I would go into a fly shop. Years ago, I went into a fly shop and I said, you know, I read in the paper that Baetis are working on the south Platte. What is a Baetis? A fly. I'm in a fly shop.

Chris Juvan [00:38:49] I'm reading a fishing report.

Chris Juvan [00:38:54] I was a woman. So when I would catch fish and people would. And so I vowed then, I would always help people, men or women on the river. If I was catching, they asked, I would share.

Rheana Gavagan [00:39:13] So rule number one is to find someone like Chris, definitely.

Rheana Gavagan [00:39:19] But I would I would say to Brand new angler, have patience with yourself, especially if you do find someone to go with that's more experienced than you. Just keep in mind that it took them probably a long time to get there. And don't get frustrated with yourself right off the bat, not knowing the terminology, not knowing a baetis versus a caddis. Don't worry about those things right up front. Just get out there. Just try it and you will eventually start catching fish and eventually and keep going. And you'll still learn the terminology and you'll start to learn those little idiosyncracies, you know? I don't know why sometimes we tend to treat fishing any different than anything else, you know?

You have to start with step 1 and then you build your knowledge from there. But just be patient. And don't be hard on yourself.

Chris Prelaz [00:40:13] I'd say mine's pretty similar. I would say be patient. Stick with it. Find friends. Learn from others. And enjoy all of the experience, not just the fishing.

Rheana Gavagan [00:40:25] Breathe

Rheana Gavagan [00:40:26] Stop for a moment and actually look at where you're at and take it and enjoy it.

Craige Stainton [00:40:32] See, y'all just stole it.

Chris Prelaz [00:40:35] I did.

Craige Stainton [00:40:36] Yeah, you must have because you probably have heard this quotation.

Craige Stainton [00:40:40] I think it's Walt Whitman. Many people fish their entire lives without knowing it's not really the fish they're after. I mean, fishing is so much more than have a fish on your hook.

Chris Prelaz [00:40:52] It's the beer. [Laughter]

Craige Stainton [00:40:52] That too.

Rheana Gavagan [00:40:56] And the people to share it.

Craige Stainton [00:40:58] It's the people. It's nature. It's the environment.

Craige Stainton [00:41:01] It's it's fine tuning your mind and getting out all of the garbage that by your telephone and you're out on that river feeling where your next footfall is so that you don't fall. It's watching for that eagle going over with the snake or looking underneath a rock to see what's crawling around.

Craige Stainton [00:41:30] Why? What are these? Why does this fish want to eat this? Because this is crawling around on the rock.

Craige Stainton [00:41:36] I mean, it's just so much more to fishing than just catching the fish. It's been a wonderful.

Craige Stainton [00:41:49] When I visited the American Museum of Fly-Fishing, when it was in the town before where it is now,.

James Thull [00:41:59] I'm not sure

Craige Stainton [00:42:02] Oh my God. Going up and going up to their upper lofts and opening up these wrapped bamboo rods that had been fished by who knows who. It was a piece of history.

Craige Stainton [00:42:16] It was it was it was magical to know that that what's her name with the original fly book and all the patterns who started to standardizing. Mary, was it Orvis? No.

James Thull [00:42:33] Yeah it was Orvis.

Craige Stainton [00:42:35] Mary Orvis, okay! Here are her flies. I'm looking at the flies and I'm looking at the book and the plate, the color plate. And there's a fly and there's that fly.

Craige Stainton [00:42:44] I mean, that's like a treasure of history. And it's so motivating. Oh, my golly. There's something special about what you're interested in.

Rheana Gavagan [00:42:58] At the point that you have treasurers like that and not just publications, you are immersed in it like you you're having a having a tactile experience, you're having a sensory experience. It's not just that you are actually experiencing the history and you're preserving that for generations where, you know, down the line, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. I can't imagine what it would mean to me if I could go to an archive and find a video of my if things existed back then, find a video of my great great grandmother talking about her experiences fly-fishing. And how wonderful is that? So it's not just here.

Rheana Gavagan [00:43:35] It's the small pieces. It's the big pieces. The the I love the fact that you're taking a cross-section of not just, you know, the people who are the giants in this angling and the industry, but also a cross-section of all sorts of perspectives.

Rheana Gavagan [00:43:54] And it's wonderful and valuable for everyone.

Chris Prelaz [00:43:59] I just pretty much ditto all of that. It's just, you know, learning how people did things is fascinating and how they survive. Like, you know, I even took a trip a Jeep trip over one of the mountains back on the western slope.

Chris Prelaz [00:44:14] And I was up there like, how did people survive here? I said, I having a hard time in a jeep. And this is a whole town.

Chris Prelaz [00:44:23] There was a school.

Chris Prelaz [00:44:23] There was just just just even envisioning how that could be associated with fly-fishing? Just the whole, you know, you know, imagination and how all that came about. It's something else.

Chris Juvan [00:44:41] I'm hoping that what for preserving in those writings and capturing that information isn't because in the future it's not going to be there. So in the event it isn't.

Chris Juvan [00:45:00] I'm glad it's there. And if it is and it gets better, which I hope it does in the future, and to share that information with each other in years to come is a great thing.

Rheana Gavagan [00:45:16] Hopefully it is a cautionary tale and not something else.

Rheana Gavagan [00:45:34] Four legs. [Laughter] Four legs and fur.

Chris Juvan [00:45:35] Yeah because a dog never says its too cold, it is too far, it's too hot. I don't want to get wet, [unintelligible] my foot hurts, I've got to get my hair cut.

Chris Juvan [00:45:45] I have to do my laundry. I have to put taxes together. None of, that comes up.

James Thull [00:45:51] That's a great answer.

Chris Prelaz [00:45:53] I cannot top that. So I'm just not going to try.

Craige Stainton [00:45:54] I like somebody who gets up in the morning and gets the coffee going and brings me coffee while I'm still in the tent and maybe turns the tent heater on also.

Rheana Gavagan [00:46:07] All those things are true. If It happens to be a human person that you're fishing with. I think someone who makes a great fishing partner is someone who knows when to be quiet and when to want to share in the excitement, when you when you when you guys have a fish on, you know, and then you holler. But actually, someone who can share the mindset of enjoying where you're at and just enjoying the silence and what you're doing.

Craige Stainton [00:46:36] I also like to have a fishing partner who doesn't mind exploring.

Craige Stainton [00:46:42] Don't get your feet planted in cement somewhere. Move along the river.

Craige Stainton [00:46:47] Move creeks, explore drainage, as are their fish. This OK. We have to walk 20 minutes, but let's go see. Just watch for bears and mountain lions around here. Private property signs too. I like to explore.

James Thull [00:47:07] we've got bears and mountain lions as well.

Rheana Gavagan [00:47:11] And you also need that fishing is going to tell you what they're using when they're catching fish. And you're not. Yeah.

Chris Prelaz [00:47:17] What do you got there?

James Thull [00:47:19] I was thinking.

James Thull [00:47:22] Great fishing partner. Somebody who's- You're just as happy when they catch a fish and they're just as happy when you do. Yeah, that's kind of the shared experience.

Rheana Gavagan [00:47:32] You get to celebrate twice as many fish.

James Thull [00:47:34] Hopefully.

Chris Juvan [00:47:35] So I think that's one thing with Colorado Women Fly Fishers.

Chris Juvan [00:47:41] There have been times that they we have trips that we had six or eight people in a row in the same spot having a blast. Well, there might be three fish

caught all day long, but holy moly, when someone catches a fish. There's these six or eight people.

Chris Juvan [00:48:04] Oh, my God. It's the biggest.

Chris Juvan [00:48:08] It's the best the hardest. Is it? Oh, my God. it takes 3 of us to land it. Oh, my God. That's the biggest thing. We've had men other fly Fishers leave the entire area because they think we are just nailing fish one after another. we maybe caught two or three. It's such a party when it's happening, it's unbelievable.

Craig Stainton [00:48:32] You know that?

Craig Stainton [00:48:33] Just the general aspect of fishing with a bunch of women has been so fun.

Craig Stainton [00:48:40] It's so different than going to fish with your husband or going to fish with your boyfriend.

Craig Stainton [00:48:48] Just it is just fun. It's just fun fishing with a bunch of women.

Chris Prelaz [00:48:55] That's why many women in the in the club, because their husbands want them to join. They leave them alone and it works out pretty well for everybody, I think.

Chris Prelaz [00:49:10] I would just say take care of what you have now and and enjoy it.

Rheana Gavagan [00:49:16] Exactly, if anything, you know, hopefully the position that you're in right now is you're in it in a much better position as far as the rivers and wildlife in general and the parks and the state of things. If you are, wonderful, keep it know that it works. It's obviously been working over the years. And if you're not, maybe look back at the past and see how can you maybe reverse what's happening or understand what you have today and make sure that you're taking care of at least what you have today for tomorrow.

Craig Stainton [00:49:50] If we can share the love of our environment and the love of the sport and somehow pass that along to future generations.

Craig Stainton [00:50:02] So in a way that they will take care of our environment and treat it gently and treat it like they're just borrowing it, not like they own it. I think that would be wonderful.

Chris Juvan [00:50:20] I think that those I would agree with all those types of things. And then I would add to can enthusiastically share your experiences with other people.

Chris Juvan [00:50:35] I have family members that can not tot- understand at all. What I do and why I do it. But they can understand my excitement and they can understand my respect and they can understand that it's something that I live to do. And I think it it creates a respect for them, for the environment, even though they're not in that, because it's something that happens out there is out of their realm that there are people who enjoy it, who need it.

Chris Juvan [00:51:13] And there's an importance for.

