

## godfrey-will-2017-04-22.mp4

[00:00:09] My gosh. You know I've been I've been a fly fisherman after my dad. And my neighbor taught me fly tying and and fly fishing and then a little bit with the Boy Scouts when I was. That was way back in the 40s in the late 40s and early 50s.

[00:00:32] And so ever since then I've been involved with the sport either academically or from a management point of view or from a business point of view or from a volunteer point of view. I've just been involved with it and you know I'm soon to be 80 and.

[00:00:52] I've been involved with it ever since. So it's it's part of my fiber. All right. It's what I do. It's a way I think. It's a it's there fly fishing and freshwater fish primarily some Andrew and Andrew Moss FISH. IT'S JUST PART OF ME. IT'S IT'S IT'S WHAT IT'S WHAT LIFE IS ABOUT. FOR ME. When my father was. He came off a farm. In those days you know you go back into the 30s in the 20s and he was a hardworking young guy with his brothers and sisters on the farm. But he eventually left that and we left and he started experimenting to find out what the other part of the world was doing besides raising cattle and hay and that sort of thing. And one of the things he turned to was fishing. And he turned directly directly to fly fishing. He didn't come through the steps you know we have a spinning rod or something like that. He he went directly to fly fishing and of course I being his oldest son and my brother and I we went with him whenever he went fishing. And so it was a natural thing that my father would teach us how to do that. I came out of Colorado State University with a couple of years of training and then finished at Brigham Young University in Agricultural Economics and went on to the University of Arizona where I had an opportunity to live. I wanted to work in cattle feeding. I ended up in a milk project so hustled out of the heat and the milk project and got. Took a full assistantship at Montana State University because I had the opportunity to work in the AG. In the ranching business. The cow calf business there and do my research there. However I got waylaid into a sugar marketing study at Montana State which by the way was international. In scope and ended up working my research in in the sugar business worldwide and graduated in 1969 with a HD and agricultural economics from Montana State University.

[00:03:20] Well you know I got to thank you folks for doing something like that because the history of our sport gets lost very quickly. It's a fast developing sport now and it has been ever since the movie came out. River Runs Through It which was partially done in the Montana region. So what we used to do and then the development the sport gets lost real quick in foam and and all of the the new things that come up in this sport especially space age materials and that sort of thing. The history of this sport is tremendous. If you're any kind of a history buff you just you and you have to have an archive if you will to really to know what that's all about. So your collection of thousand plus pay really is important. And my collection of seven higher volumes pales to that but I have that collection because I can open up a heck brand I can open up. Pete Heidi. I can open up Frances Frances over I can open these books up and see how they did it and listen to how they.

[00:04:37] Put together their flies and how they use their techniques and all that sort of thing. I mean I came up on a time when when we used snail hooks for crying out loud. They're not even. Nobody even knows what those are now heart. So the collection is really important.

[00:04:53] And when you think about Bud Lilly you know he's where I got my start and Bud made a tremendous contribution to our sport. How would you know what he did if he didn't have the archive. You know you're just going to have it. Pat Barnes another great West

Yellowstone kind of guy if he didn't have their history and didn't know about what they did and what they spawned if you real I mean you look at but he spawned myself into the world of fly fishing as well as Bob Jacquelin and maybe several other guys. And we keep perpetuating that sort of thing. All because of our father so to speak but. Any of those other guys that were involved and you just gotta have the history you just gotta have the history.

[00:05:51] But was that was you know I was in the early days and this was in 1965. I had a son that got pretty sick. He was diagnosed with leukemia. And I was a student at John devastate state and I had no way to pay the bills. My assistantship there didn't cover that sort of thing. So I went to bed because I had some interest in fly fishing and he hired me and I worked in a store learning and learned how to run the business. And then I auditioned if you will for him to be a guide and I was a guide for him for a while and then I spawned out if you will. I left like this just like children do. I left his company and built my own. Probably when I was auditioning with that you know I I looked like something back when what I look at the picture of me in those days. Mind you I had a herders full green vest that I got. I had a pair of Hodgman waiters that were real big and baggy out of Western had an old. For peace. Cain ride s Ben ride that I'd had forever with a fluke a real on it. And Ben said Come on let's go fishing. So we went up to 12 mile run on the Madison River and the old stone yard bar here and there. I auditioned in the sense that he was watching me cast. He was watching me how I waited the river and that sort of thing.

[00:07:44] And and I was I was kind of shaken I mean and I think I was more worried about that than my exams but the truth. And when I finished that on the way back he said I'd like to hire you to be one of my vote. So he says you think you know what you're doing. And perhaps you can teach people and that's what this book was all about.

[00:08:14] It was difficult. I mean it was really difficult to teach a lady to cast because she didn't. She didn't have the thought process of why she was there. Usually in those days women were not very there weren't very many women learning to fly fish and those that did come were there because either they wanted to be closer to their husbands or their husbands said come on learn what's going on. In those days I just sense that back in the casting portion strength and power that was needed to to cast glass rods and that sort of thing. I think it was just difficult for women. Sure just difficult men were memories or they were into it. They wanted to learn.

[00:09:11] It's a bad habit. My what. You know I can't go anywhere without buying a book but Ira maybe it was from my academic experiences. You know I was I I. I I don't say I was a great reader. But I loved the feel of books there and I love to get into. I remember going to take taking a fast reading class one time everyone would fast reading. Program. And I got up to reading something like 6000 words a minute or something like that. But you know what. I hated it because you could chew the words. You couldn't chew the thoughts. You couldn't really digest the meal. So I love to read. Just read the words and if it's slow it's slow. And. Then the feel of the book. Two or three can get lost in a book. You haven't picked up a book where you just can't put it down until you finish it. Yeah and usually somewhere around the first part of the first chapter you decide whether you're going to finish this book or not. Is it the same old same old is giving you kind of give that new information to me. So. I. Love the feel of the book. I love to look at my collection. I don't know what the heck I'm going to do with my high pass on but all of that sort of thing is important to me and it's fun to just go to your own library to make.

[00:10:39] Probably haig-brown. This is the top author that I enjoy reading and I have a collection of his books I think I have all but three and I probably won't ever finish that

collection because those three that I do not have are pretty rare especially the original book he wrote called Silver. And I remember I had it now for change and going to a safe area and hit a bookstore in Vancouver British Columbia. And I had an opportunity to work. With. White gloves. Open the book sewer which was huge. They were just a few of these made and they were given for some sort of Centennial or something.

[00:11:24] Right. And this guy had the copy and I asked him how much it would take to buy this from me it was three thousand dollars. At that time and that time was about nineteen. I would say about nineteen eighty seven somewhere right in there somewhere in the. 80s. Hey grounds way he wrote. I just love reading a small. Charlie Fox. Vince marinara. A couple of authors from the East Coast. From Pennsylvania area. Those those are great great authors but I think if I really narrowed it down probably missing Brown Art Roderick he Brown and I was fortunate to be a fishing guy. Oh wonderful. On occasions.

[00:12:20] I have one book here. This one is the fly fishing in Idaho. Book kids as a table top book in its own coffee table book and photography was done by Rick Randall fashionable turned around. If I can. Randolph Ashton. And I was just hired. As a writer just to fill out the pictures to describe the picture. So what I did in this book I put about an eight page scenario to an abstract of the history of fly fishing in Idaho. From the beginning of any kind of records that we have to think about 1986 somewhere around in there because at that time the sport just ballooned out and it was so hard to of the industry. That particular time. So. And then this is sectioned into various. Parts of Idaho by photo and then by description beyond the beyond the abstract. History. This book here seasons of the Steelhead was a passion book. And once again it's a book that. Is about Steelhead and about seasons of the year when you can and when you do fly fish for steelhead photography and here is by Drew stick line. He lives in Bozeman. By the way now. Drew is a magnificent photographer. He and I spent two years putting this together. And he has we have some other models that were in here that helped us in various places. But this one now is seasonal oriented anyway through in fall winter and spring and summer. And this book here one the International fly fishing book of the year 2012. It also won the United States book of the year in the same year. Congratulations since this book has essays as 13 short essays it has stream notes.

[00:14:25] That excerpts from my logs and then the great photography by Drew. It was a fun book to do I. Frankly. Hate to say this I guess but I.

[00:14:35] Build my own self help here a little bit but I love reading this thing. I really love reading the stories that I wrote. Sometimes I write I read this and they're saying I think that I write that. Anyway. Those are the two books and I'm one. And then I'm working on a new book that has had the full history or I should say a history book not the full history but a history of fly fishing and I don't. Well still ahead see in Idaho steelhead come in the Columbia River system from the Pacific center native the snake river and. They come in the Snake River at.

[00:15:16] At Lewiston Idaho walk welcome to Washington Idaho borders. And then they travel from there up into the salmon for the m Naha the ground there on their mind and all of the tributaries they used to go all the way up to the five Twin Falls before the dams were put in jail. But nowadays it's bigger than the Clearwater River the North Idaho because that had the greatest and most significant Roe steelhead in the state of Idaho prior to the building of the dam. Door shack. Damn it. Oh I feel great which killed that right. Well that's just flat out. You found it. So it was mitigated with hatchery and government fish and all that sort of thing but makes me mad and even tough. To me there is not much any wild

means wild. They used two words today native meaning wild. Those of us in the sport generally refer to them as wild fish. A native fish would be more like a cutthroat. That was indigenous to the area right from the get go. Know a great thing for white fish cutthroat those those to be are native fish not a wild fish is one that's raised by mother nature and her environment. There's nothing to do with hatcheries and liver pills and all the nonsense that the government fish. Are. About. Yeah. So what's in steelhead to me and trout to me. A wild fish is a more suitable creature to be deceived by a fly than a government fish that's used to people being around it and eating Little Liver Pills and stuff like that.

[00:17:11] No I have I have used for fish like that because sometimes that's over with half memories. The government fish. To me though to be able to work with Mother Nature. To walk with something while she raps that I can. Full with my creations. And. I don't kill. Everything I've put. It. It's a kitchen release for me. Or I'm a. Boy that's a whole big topic. Yeah we see we've seen tremendous number of changes and the changes come because there's just a large larger population. In the United States. I remember going to the Madison River with Pat Barnes in 1963. I remember August 8th 1963. Fishing with Pat Barnes when he and I were on the Madison River near the. Near what we used to call snowball.

[00:18:22] Down river from this sun West branches right there. And I remember we had I had 23 children in which there was a six pounder and a 14 year old caught on high flyers. Oh that's right. And I'll release it back to the river. That doesn't happen anymore. Well you do. You can't you can't go to the Madison River and fish along the line. That's because we have a lot lot more people just a lot more people. So people think impacted. It's OK if people make impact if they also appreciate the value of the Ark of the river and the fish. That doesn't always happen nowadays. And economics. The use of water has been very difficult. I look at the steelhead runs you know they're and they're impaired by the dams not only on the Columbia River but the primary three dams on the Snake River in Washington two of which are you know like the lower granite and. And. Well there's two other dams. Their names slipped my mind I hate the fact that they impair fish from getting to their grounds where they spawn the commercial side of things for the reason gill nets. I mean units are not selected to kill everything. You know. And so there's a lot of threat. There's a lot of threat to especially wild wild fish and there are there they're threatened and they're endangered. To have abdomens fish. Our salmon are still here an endangered and threatened and the government keeps horsing around and horsing around and spending tons of money just absolutely tons of money taxpayer money. To mitigate or try to get these fish back to the ocean and then back to us. The simple answer to that is get rid of those three dams on the Snake River. That would really go a long ways to helping.

[00:20:30] Access is another thing in Montana. There's been a lot of trouble with taxes. I mean wealthy people people with means come out and they buy the properties where these. Rivers run through these ranches and they block them off. And they say public can't come here anymore. This is my domain now. So there's been a big issue in Montana. Over that especially with. Rivers that are that are. Found over. As tributaries to the big hole and to the beaver head and probably out throughout Montana. If you want to.

[00:21:11] But money again begins to speak. And so it's had to go to court. I think recently the judges in Montana have indicated that there has to be a certain amount of access at the bridge levels for at the road levels where people can get in and at least fish to a high water mark and in some cases the landowners are justified. In blocking off because they find that the general public on their place leaves garbage leaves all kinds of junk and they

trespass and let the cattle out. They don't close games. I mean so sometimes the general public in itself has been the culprit. And I don't blame a guy. For closing off in that sense. But to just close off is wrong in my view.

[00:22:01] So access in Idaho. That's quite right. That's a little bit different. We don't seem to be having those access problems just yet. But as more people discover the beauties of Idaho I was they in fact start to close off shore. There's. Gonna be an issue. Where we're a high watermark. And. And the state does not own. And the Atlanta owner does not own the bottom of the river gauge.

[00:22:31] His watermarked watermark and water is owned by the public. And they're entitled. I'm a believer in climate change. I don't think you know we cycle. All these things work in cycles and. The cycle that we're on now. I don't know and maybe a thousand year cycle and we're coming into the time when certain things are gonna change on this earth and may change as a result of what's going on with the sun and what's going on with the depth of the Earth and what's going on with manmade carbon products that seem to.

[00:23:14] Break down our defenses and that sort of thing. So I'm a believer that if you ask me if we look at just the micro side of this thing and and somebody said to to me this year we've got a climate change we're getting warmer I'd say you know you talk about home. I mean Lewiston Idaho only gets somewhere between three and four inches of snow a year. We have 40 inches plus this year. Is that a warming. See if you look at it. From a micro point of view you have to really look at it from a macro balloon right and see what's going on over time what's really happening. Look at the ice sheets. On.

[00:24:00] The pole. I mean that's a big time indicated to me that. We can see these little micro changes in our own environment to try to relate to. But I think the macro changes are. Really we're cycling into a time when. Things are going to get warmer we're right. There's going to be less snow in general that means less water available. I mean those things are just going to happen. We have rivers. When I was a fishing game commissioner in the state of Idaho we have it. We made a study of the free flowing waters of the state. We figured we had fifteen thousand miles roughly. Read some great free flowing waters in our state. And we set aside 10 percent of those. Things. That Mother Nature could continue to manage. This would be a wild fish we would dump hatchery fish or government fish on top of them. We would probably have some special regulations in that sort of thing. That. Day. That. Idaho is a Mecca.

[00:25:22] We're neighbors to Montana and so we we share a lot of things together. We share wildlife as well as wilderness areas. I think the waters that run either to the Pacific and golf for waters that we're run to the.

[00:25:40] Atlantic. It's pretty it's pretty interesting. To see how on the border in Idaho and Montana where water running west ends up in the Gulf of Mexico. Water running east ends up in the Pacific Ocean. I mean it hasn't happened to many places in the world. That's I don't think so Idaho and western Montana. Very much like Idaho. Great. Great. So locks on your arms and. Clear water on the snake. They're. The same marriage the same joke. I mean it goes on and on and on. We really have a wonderful place. We are also unique in the sense that we have a natural history. We have spring chinook salmon. We have a fall chinook salmon. That's it. We have. We have soldiers. We have Steelhead. These are all coming from the ocean Pacific Ocean. Endangered and Threatened. To the hilt. But we're working to try to save those kids. We have a lot of country things to fish. And. We're no different than anybody else so we've got a political body that's basically

agrarian. They're agricultural oriented there. They want water for potatoes and for one thing or another. They'd like a bigger tax base which means they grow industry. And when all that comes that's going to Pete. But we're one of the last places that it's impeding just like some parts of Montana. Sure but it'll eventually happen unless we step up. And do the protection modes that we put in the protection.

[00:27:37] That we need for these great rivers systems. If you're not interested in your kid's schooling. What you got a real good chance of losing your child. Oh you got it. It's just like. Yeah. Yeah. My kids. If I didn't take care of them and train them train them on my gosh what did they give me gangsters and they're gonna be without work and they're gonna be doing you know they'd be doing bad things. That's no different than the recent. We have got to take your areas. From a religious point of view I think man must take care. And be the steward over. This Earth. That's from a religious point and that sort of feeling that I really have. And when he's a steward he takes care of things. He flat out takes care of things all of the time. Not just part of it. He teaches others to do the same. And so those of us. That are. Out and about. Living in the yellow.

[00:28:47] Living in the environment outside of cities we know what that's all about. It's our job to teach these guys have nots that live in the cities that don't experience free flowing water they don't experience an elk to experience a wild fish. It's our job to train them. So absolutely imperative. I think what I would say is that I'll always be grateful to Bud Lily. Bud Lily gave me an opportunity. And yeah I thought as a young kid I could run a business maybe better and he did. And I broke away and built my own businesses. I built the will Godrej fly fishing centers with my partner George Wright. And. We had we build our stores. We patterned everything though after what Bud taught. And he might have felt a little bit put upon when he when he lost Bob Jackson. And he was beautiful Godfrey because we went out and built new businesses and we spawned our own guys I always find out guys like Terry Regan over in Sun Valley. And then the great Jerry seam who is Glen Brackett and these guys that came out of my shop as guys see that extra ball. And. I think Larry tell us. And. Schroeder and all the guys that are still in the industry today but that you know there's 60s there. They're 60 years old 50 50 and 60 years old and they they've got to do the same thing. So I'm always grateful absolutely grateful. Not only to my father who taught me from the get go but for good me for giving me the opportunity to meet.