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Bruce James [00:00:09] Not really a story no, I mean fishing you know I'm a small stream fisherman primarily. I mean I spent 17 years rowing the boat down the Snake so you know I've spent plenty of time on the big river you know on a boat and. Sometimes I'll walk into the Snake and sometimes I'll walk in the smaller streams I just they're more intimate. And the way it works around here is there are a lot more places that I can kind of escape you know on the little creeks than the big rivers so. It's kind of it's just enjoyable and I like to experiment with flies I find it a better atmosphere for doing that sort of thing.

James Thull [00:00:51] So it's as much about being in nature kind of getting that solitude as anything else for you?

[00:00:57] Yeah it's that and it's kind of getting out of town. Yeah, Jackson's a busy town you're in a busy place and you know you kind of need to kind of unwind and get out of town. I mean I can fish Flat Creek which is only just on the edge of town but I never do because it's you know I don't want to see Jackson right you know. When I leave and go fishing I don't want to see the town. I want to get back pretty country the aesthetics of the pretty country and the stream is as much to me as the size of the anything I can catch little fish it doesn't bother me at all. You know.

Bruce James [00:01:38] Not really spots spots I mean now say I like backcountry type stuff kind of spots around here. You know it usually involves driving back in a ways on a dirt road you know it's pretty back there and it's quiet and there's not a lot of people the fishing is good.

James Thull [00:01:56] Any rivers that hold a special place for you? Wherever they're biting?

Bruce James [00:02:07] I don't think anything specific really you know when you go along probably spent a fair amount of time in the Grovont probably more than anything else as far as rivers go. Although this year because the fires it's been a little on the smoky side up there.

James Thull [00:02:21] Yeah we're getting the smoke up by us too.

Bruce James [00:02:23] You know you kind of have to sometimes adjust things according to what Mother Nature throws at you.

James Thull [00:02:30] That is true.

Bruce James [00:02:36] Pretty much used to fishing for cutthroat so you know they like dry flies and it's fun to dry fly fish. So you know I kind of like doing those guys the Brown Trout fishing is down on the Green and the New Fork, which is a little farther away and it's a little bit more temperamental you might say as far as fishing goes. Saying that in that small amount of time off that you sometimes get around here it's like maximize of what goes on that's for sure.

Bruce James [00:03:11] Actually I've really not done much fishing for stock trout per se.

James Thull [00:03:17] Well like Browns and Rainbows would all be invasive here. Is there something special about catching a Cutthroat in waters where it's always been or?

Bruce James [00:03:25] Not really. I'm mean Browns I enjoy catching the Browns and stuff. And I don't really worry about whether they're native or not when I'm fishing for them. I enjoy them and I enjoy Rainbows they jump around and they're kind of cool to fish for them. And even though they're not part of you know the fishery around here it's you know, well we don't have them in this drainage. We have cutthroat in this drainage and we go down you know just over the hill, you know over to the Green River drainage then you get some Rainbows and your Browns down there so. You know they're part of that drainage down there.

Bruce James [00:04:02] I'm not too sure you're really going to get rid of the Browns out of there anyway. I mean they're kind of a fish that kind of hides underneath stuff and you'd probably have to shock the river to do that you know. And they're not as easy to catch so you know. I can see them getting rid the Lakers of Yellowstone lake because the Lakers are you know they have a huge size you know they'll eat Cutthroat you know I mean they can chow down a pretty fair amount of cutthroat. But that's you know that's not the problem that you're running into with Browns you know it's not like the Browns on some of these rivers are really that big. They're there but they're not that big like that you know to destroy the cutthroat population or anything like that. So I can't say that bothers me to see them there I like the Browns we have Browns in the upper Snake above Jackson Lake I like them being there I don't have a problem with him being there at all.

James Thull [00:05:08] I think Browns are great. They're wonderful fish they're great fighters the Cuts seem to be so susceptible to interbreeding with you know Cut-bows with Rainbows and other species of trout, that it almost seems they need an isolated population to keep them genetically pure but.

Bruce James [00:05:24] You know in Idaho you've got Rainbows and you've got Cutthroat where they are both you know you've got Henrys Fort with Rainbows you got Cutthroat in the South Fork and it's like well how do you get rid of the Rainbows because the two come together. I mean you can't just you know it just doesn't work that way. You would have to destroy the Henrys Fork and make that a pure Cutthroat fishery to do that and I don't see that happening so.

Bruce James [00:05:57] I mean I did some fly fishing you know when I was little kid, not much really you know and really didn't do much fly fishing until I got out here per se. You know you're working at a store where everybody fly fishes that's kind of what you do. You know when I really got into the guiding it was just kind of a natural progression, it's not like anybody in particular you know. It's not like I went fishing with Jack because I didn't know really. You know I've been kind of a pretty much kind of a loner as far as fishing goes I usually fish alone most of the time. I did own a friend here that I went fishing with a bunch you know when he was here, doesn't live here anymore but you know. But it's not like he got me into fishing at all cause I just kind of got myself into it.

Bruce James [00:06:55] I like guiding it came down to the fact that you know it's a very physical thing and as we get older parts start to wear and you know the doctor says, well you're going to keep on doing this, you're going to get you some new shoulders here pretty quick so you know you just make these decisions. And then as I say we get older you know it's hard on your back hard on your shoulders stuff like that. So, if I had a choice between being out on the river you know and tapping away on the computer, believe me, I'd definitely be out on the river. You know it just doesn't work that way, unfortunately.

James Thull [00:07:37] It's just kind of whatevers.

Bruce James [00:07:39] I've been tying flies since I was nine years old. I've tied thousands, I mean I tie flies for the store. I test out something all the time I'm working on testing out flies all the time.

James Thull [00:07:52] You mentioned you like experimented with them.

Bruce James [00:07:55] Oh yeah that's the whole fun. I was experimenting with new things messing around, putting this color here try this color here see how this stuff works you know. It's what you do that's basically what I do.

Bruce James [00:08:13] Well I don't tie salmon flies their probably the most difficult ones to tie and I don't fish for salmon or anything like that so. These days probably the ones that are most difficult for me to tie unfortunately are the smaller ones as our eyesight changes over life. You know there's little tiny little things get a little bit more difficult to deal with than the larger flies.

Bruce James [00:08:45] You know as far as if you're talking about men and women you know women will get interested usually it's guys who get their wives or whatever interested. You know it's not like you're likely to put in any kind of an ad in there or anything like that's going to probably get them interested. I think it's usually as I say it's usually guys get their girlfriends or their wives interested. You know it's like, I'm going to go, honey, won't you go with me, and she tries it out and shes like I really like this. Because what happens is that most gals, at least I'm not you know I'm just speaking because I think it's this way whether it really is this way or not, but I think most gals they were introduced to fishing by their dads. Maybe they were messing around with worms and they didn't like that so they had a negative feeling about fishing. I really like messing with worms and stuff like this. And mostly once they try fly fishing it's like this is great this is marvelous you know it's like there are no worms right this is marvelous they think they love it.

Bruce James [00:09:51] Probably only you know men are more physical and they try to muscle things and women don't tend to do that. You know I just don't think they tend to muscle things, so I think they listen better. I think they listen guys are you know it's like ok muscle these things, like well it doesn't work that way. Women are more likely to actually listen to what you're saying and pay more attention to that because it's you know it's a bit more foreign to some of them. So I think sometimes they actually learn it better than the guys do. Joan Wolfe was a fantastic fly caster no doubts about that you know she was marvelous.

Bruce James [00:10:34] Probably don't get too serious about the bugs and as far as trying to identify every last genus and species and all this stuff unless you want to eventually. But that can get that could be a little bit strange at first. You know it's like oh God do I need to know all these bug names and all this stuff no. I can just recognize what it is and it's something that looks like it.

Bruce James [00:11:08] I don't think I got an answer that. It's more of a personality problem questioning authority or anything else. Do you fish the same you got the same aptitude for how many hours you like fish it's more really just how we get along.

James Thull [00:11:24] Fair enough.

James Thull [00:11:36] Do you think climate change is going to be an issue?

Bruce James [00:11:42] Could be. I mean what mother nature does with this weather here, we're actually having warmer weather then what we normally have. I mean if we have another warm summer like this it really gets really warm and stays warm. You know Fish and Wildlife could even shut down and say, ok nobody is fishing after 2 o'clock anymore.

James Thull [00:12:01] They just did on the Gallatin by us.

Bruce James [00:12:01] It happens it could happen you know.

Bruce James [00:12:05] I actually don't read much of that sort of stuff. I mostly kind of browse some technical stuff yeah books. We got a pretty extensive library but it's not story type books, they're not story type books they're like nymphs and things like this.You look at it for research or for referral.

James Thull [00:12:39] More technical.

Bruce James [00:12:39] Yeah, you're looking for what's this thing here well look at this book here and see if I can figure out something that matches what that really is. Or a lot of them are pattern books, it's like yeah this is kind of interesting let's try this guy here or something like that. Place to fish books.

James Thull [00:12:54] Sure that makes sense.

Bruce James [00:12:54] I've never seen that type of rod it's my understanding is this word is kinda like yapping. I mean I don't foresee it being the thing, I've never seen anybody use one in this part of the country.

James Thull [00:13:18] I've got one in my truck.

Bruce James [00:13:20] I really never have so. Never actually seen anybody use one and I'm sure they fine. Don't really know much about the Tenkara rod.