

## **korrubel-jan-2017-06-23.mp4**

[00:00:12] I don't really have a story I have more of a more of a more of a background into it. I came to I came to an adult about 21 years ago. I'm actually from the southern southern section of South Africa from Cape Town. Where I grew up in a coastal city. I'm actually a marine biologist.

[00:00:27] Scuba Diver commercial diver fisherman by background and I have university degrees. I've got a master's degree in marine biology and quantitative stock assessment actually. Fisheries management. And when I came to an atoll I was actually I found a new group of friends here that will spear fishermen divers. But as I subsequently learned very quickly in the tell every every man and his dog and everybody in between they all fly fish. And I must say I wasn't too to too quickly taken on about this.

[00:01:02] As I think it was John Garrick that standing on the shore looking like an idiot waving a stick and is one of the titles of his boat. And I didn't take too kindly to that at first.

[00:01:14] So I was dragged kicking and screaming into the fold as it were. But I think what attracted me to it very very quickly was one of the first fish I caught and it was a good fish was a fly that a friend of mine had time. And I looked at this.

[00:01:29] And I was just completely flabbergasted and astounded and I said if he can do that then I can do this. So I think within about two weeks of catching my first fish I bought a rod I bought a bias I bought Flatiron materials.

[00:01:44] And the rest as they say is history Excellent. So that's my story of getting it getting getting getting sucked into it I think I was actually at a flat tire before I was a flying. I was asked that question actually recently about. An online magazine that we have here. That's also also available vagabond fly because. I tell you yards. And. My response to them was. I don't actually catch fish on my own flights. Because I talk to everybody else and as soon as I type like it seems to magically vaporize and disappear into somebody else's fly box. I think there's one only memorable occasion when I have caught and lost the fly that I was fishing with that was tied by myself was finished tying tying up an order of flies and I was short one I'd lost it when I did that when I did the final package I'd lost one so I frantically had to retire that I'd explode finished the water send it off when I was clearing my flat Tiny Desk I found the fly I thought up again I've got one for myself I I'm. Stuck it in the box. I then went on a fishing trip I then fished that flight and was taken properly by a big fish who wanted to fly more than I wanted it and took off for the final. Say so I very seldom I very seldom get to fish my own flight. Very small. Taking a big interest recently more well under the UN the salmon flies. So big following following on the salmon flies at the moment that I well I came. And party came about because I came into. Came into a large stash of genuine. Vintage salmon irons last year in my in my foraging and collecting. So it kind of like started started the interest I've been following them at the moment. But in terms of flat tires. Yeah. I mean there's American guys rich strollers. Michael Michael Schmidt. American guys that catch large brown trucks en masse large streamers. We don't have such big brown tight enough in our in our fisheries yet so we tend to fish much smaller smaller parties but they've they've kind of like piqued my interest quite a bit. I generally tend to buy their books. And. Charlie's but Charlie's black box and Charlie craven Charlie Craven. He's got some very very very very innovative.

[00:04:13] Food patterns. So I put. All of their books on. I think we have a wide variety of fish that we that we are that we fish around here. Basically from very close access to

where we are yet and very close access to. Very good warm water coastal saltwater fishing. So coastal species you fish along the coast with some really to be large or bigger stuff if you want. Of course I've managed to catch. Six different species in the space of about 45 minutes. On a single flight. So it's so desperate and saltwater species variety is great. Much bigger fish if you want to chase them as well. Otherwise otherwise higher up and towards the Midlands on the Trump streams. I mean obviously we've got brown trout and rainbows yet.

[00:05:03] Wild spawn. Brown trout the main attraction for fishing in the Midlands. And then all the fish stopped rainbows and just. The waters. On fishing as some guys call it. But that's when fishing so the rivers are closed not yet for. So. So we switch over from the small stream Spring Creek style style fishing into it just little water fishing for the winter. For three months until all. The rivers are closed. And I think it's just that.

[00:05:29] Just the variety of landscapes. A very popular popular indigenous quarry here is the yellow fish Baba's. Species. Which is very similar to very similar to that to the. Notoriety the Indian Mafia.

[00:05:45] Of which we've got nine separate species in this country. There's a. There's a nice. Nice interesting challenge called a nine by nine time catch all nine species over nine days. It's one hell of a trick around the country from them. From the northern sections of South Africa right down to the southern section of South Africa it's quite it's quite quite an arduous task I think in some places you've only got about 45 minutes to wait in line and catch a species before you have to move on and if you don't get it well within. But. Then I'm going to be the nine by nine.

[00:06:17] Yes. We have. We have very strong. Well as a. As a. As a former biologist myself. We make a strong distinction between the terms invasive. And non-indigenous. Okay so wild trots wild trucks on non-indigenous species. Yeah in southern or. Southern Africa including Southern Hemisphere. Everywhere for that. For that matter. The invasiveness is strictly controlled by their living conditions. So they are not. 110 per cent invasive like like some other species which you just pop a seed where you pop an animal somewhere and you have them all over the place. Talk very strictly controlled by the by the by the environment which element they need clean. So he's running water particularly in terms of the river species. You stopped them in warm water. You stop them. In areas of high agricultural high runoff etc. and they simply won't survive. So so they so they invasiveness is very strictly curved and controlled by the by the by the environment which they which they live in. So in terms of in terms of. Making space for a noninvasive 4 four for non-indigenous. Species within within the context of a.

[00:07:32] National indigenous species. Yes I think in terms of it in terms of their economic importance. You know I think it's I think it's a there's a well-known study in South Africa which is which is said that fishing and we talking all forms of fishing is basically as a money spinner within South Africa. It's much bigger. Than your annual national sports of rugby and football. And. If you eat. And that is if you factor in all that trouble accommodation fuel consumption all the rest of that.

[00:08:01] And the fly fishing industry is certainly certainly one of those. I mean it's at the forefront. And the fact that we're having to fight to maintain our charge within this country is just absolutely beyond comprehension to me. I mean it's. It's a. It's a well recognized path passed on. In certain parts of the country particularly Yemen and then Intel Midlands and outside Johannesburg for example you have Dahlstrom a village hamlet called it. Call it

what you want. Very similar to where I live in Nottingham Road. Which just simply simply wouldn't exist if not fishing wasn't they simply wouldn't exist from up on a map from a tourism perspective. I don't say that we that we harbour a trout fishing Mecca. Such luck. Like New Zealand. And unfortunately South Africa doesn't focus on the giant as much as as much as what what's in. What they do. In the small island across that side of the ocean as much of a tourist potential backyard I mean the anglers and I've got it around here. Have been been. International have suddenly said they're simply amazed and stunned by the scenic beauty of the country and being able to fish for Chance a species that they love as much as we do as anglers that is you know in an area like this.

[00:09:14] So I mean it has potential it's not a big fish potential but it certainly has tourism. Tourism potential. Agenda. Fishing for them. Were trapped in the. My life thought I'd done. Not at all. I've only flown. In this area where we are. I'd wager where most of my fishing takes place is in an Italian Midlands so mainly small stream team fishing is my is my main game. And then as I said in winter now now with the rivers up close to me. David and slaughter. We don't have crocodiles we don't have anything there but spots in the water. Yet. The only thing that a lot of my friends complain well complain about or comment about is that aren't you scared of snakes. And I must say that when I'm fishing I'm so concentrating on fishing whether whether a snake has crawled over my foot to whatever extent I haven't even noticed. So I've never had a problem problem with snakes. We do have there's the odd sighting of wild leopard still still in the Midlands but I mean they they are such a secretive catch. I mean they can. I feel that you're going to make much more noise and you're going to scare them off before they. I'm just not a case of like walking across the path and stumbling over one sleeping sleeping under your foot. That's not going to happen.

[00:10:28] The only place where we fly fishing and that's on the African continent per say which would really take you take you into dangerous areas would be when you talk of fishing. So perhaps in the Congo to. This crocodile populations there and then.

[00:10:43] And then perhaps more famously on the Zambezi and the Northern Namibian sections we were fishing there for Tiger fish. You get the horror stories of guys that are sitting in a boat idly trolling their hand on the side of the boat and there's a or a fish coming up on a crocodile comes it comes to trying to take the fish as you as you try to net the fish but nothing like that yet.

[00:11:06] It's perfect again it was a common comment that I was that I was making yesterday growing up in a place like Capetown which is a coastal town. I was so focused on the sea. I was a surfer. I was a spear fisherman. I'm a diver. Everything was beach beach beach My parents also we went to the beach very big and virtually every single day. So when it came to doing undergraduate zoology I paid scant very little passing material stuff only to any of the freshwater stuff for which. 40 years later I'm still kicking my ass off roundly.

[00:11:38] Not paying any attention to the bugs and learning and having to now learn the stuff that I could have learnt some 30 40 years ago. Parents. Yes. Yeah so unfortunately I didn't pay any attention to that.

[00:11:55] So in terms of the people interaction rate. I mean I mean I spent I spent 21 years at university in some form or form or other either studying studying or lecturing. And it's that. It's that sense of being able to. Give back. To teach. To help somebody else. You know that it's a feeling of fulfillment when you see somebody being able to do something.

You know that they say that have absolutely no experience on them and you know you take them on to their first brown trucks you know a lot of guys come to an atoll specifically for that for that for the really fishing. And I do primarily that the main thing that I got is most fishing is. Interesting. Because most guys are quite happy I feel to come come just little water or. Upon. Thrash the water to a foam and give it back to themselves. But they they all tend to feel very uneasy when it comes to who comes to come the river fishing. I don't know why I find row fishing is a lot easier than sort of fishing. So I mean if you know if you know how raga works you know where the fish are that simple you know. But guys guys guys tend to be tend to be want to be taught learn learn about rivers and that it's that feeling of accomplishment when the guys get that first brown trout on on on a on a dry fly upstream cost to fly. That. Sense of accomplishment. It's fun and dealing with people questions all the time asking people. I. Think it's great. That's just that's. Just it. Person to Person language person you're on the same wavelength talking the same language just interact.

[00:13:28] Yes very much so. I'm done a lot of travelling. I've been very fortunate enough to have. Friends that have invited me. On trips. And and my first trip to really fly fishing specific trip outside the country was obviously in the neighboring country. The to. Fished. Fish while spawning. Fish in the Highlands update.

[00:13:49] And the guide. They are obviously well-known garden country didn't really come across very many anglers. Obviously because of that because of the solitude and the isolation of the city. But just in terms of being able to. Meet this. Guide of that quality and that experience and you know having to talk to him and having him show you tell you a couple of a couple of different things. Following following international trip I did was was to Europe Slovenia which in Slovenia and there. And then we also had a first class top notch guide and I must have seen that with his with his crew of gods that we were we were in a group of group of four for English so we had a couple of guides at our disposal and you speaking to them and you know it was just like yeah. On the same on the same page on the same level instantaneously. Language might be might be a slight problem. Next international trip that I did was to was to Chile. Some. Fish like the Yellowstone area. Again the guides they could barely speak English but you're pretty much on the same page. Look at the flower boxes. Point Shea exchange stories. Rhodes everybody has a cost of each other's gear swap flowers exchanged flowers. I think it's great. And then. Yeah last year I went to went to New Zealand. Twice.

[00:15:02] And then the same guys there you meet guys everybody's talking very much very much animated. What's she like in your country. What have you got there could be jobs why you come. Yeah. It's very much very much interactive. From a fly fishing perspective in the 20 years that I've been here in the town I've certainly noticed noticed changes. I'd say first and foremost probably would be would be in the technical stuff. Tackle development sometime in 20 years. It's just this is ludicrous. Stuff and stuff that's available in the shop. In terms of numbers of anglers certainly I think there's there's a lot more people. But but one needs to factor effective in in in website terms of the numbers of people that I've met. I think it's also directly correlated to another technical advancement into things like Internet and Web based. The smaller. What was now what was the world is now a small city.

[00:15:58] And what was a small city is now your next door neighbor. So that kind of that you tend to just meet a lot more people. So. You. Need to see what needs to be careful. I think I'm saying that there's a lot more anglers. In terms of just just. Purely through the numbers of people that I've met virtually versus physically and. I. Mean reality. Is different.

In terms of in terms of weather. Yes. I didn't really pay too much attention to the weather. Things seem to be pretty much on or not on us on a on a plateau stable plateau. We have. In the Midlands with the guys cooler cooler cooler tri annual snow cycle every three years. There's meant to be a big snow. It snowed the very first year that we were that we were up in the Midlands. Good good good. Proper snow and then it didn't snow for about nearly four years off that little dribs and drabs say things got a little bit drier and then 2015. Was was it was a really bad year. Everybody talked about how the rovers were literally down to bare bones skeletal flow. And weather and we were highly concerned about the populations of fish. When the rains came. End of last year.

[00:17:07] So basically end of 2016 the draft of 2015 ran through ran through to 2016 Summer Rains arrived here end of 2016. The amounts of fish and big fish that have been prevalent in the in the rivers. Yeah it's just phenomenal where they've been hiding where they've been sitting all this time that I've been fishing and catching a little Gaza my one wait. Suddenly we have fish that are. 50 centimetres 25 inches. Plus.

[00:17:34] It is ludicrous in our small streams over yet Big Fish. And unfortunately being in a being in a relatively new position I completely missed. In South Africa it was never it was never really.

[00:17:54] Really considered to be to be to be a problem we had. We had to all the all the nature reserves which are set aside by the former National Parks Board and the parks board guys themselves as a conservation agency were instrumental in putting putting fish out. And the primary directive for that was that we had all these magnificent mountainous areas that were now set up set up as preservation as areas. However you had the people from the inland that were just simply rushing past them and heading down to the coast. For one simple reason for fishing. So then to tell Parks Board decided that they would become instrumental in. Spreading drought. As a conservation authority. So spreading and non-indigenous species within an indigenous conservation area which is now obviously seen as a bit of a no no. But but in terms of promoting fishing and access to fishing river fishing primarily fly fishing for trout that is used as a tourism to try and promote. People's access to parks. When that started being shut down. When this whole alien invasive species problem started I think it becomes absolutely imperative that every every fly angler in this country. If he wants to charge fish. Should now stand up when he's on his own feet and. Become.

[00:19:14] Politically active. And that's I think due to the. Non necessity of of that through after all the formative years of harvesting in this country anglers are still very slow in coming to the party. Very slow. Very slow. So we finding it's. Been and been an uphill battle is a call for a core group basically a committee equal top essay of which I sit on the committee. To. Fight. Fight the Department of Environmental Affairs and. Water Affairs that I want to shut down the hatches prevent trucks. Being in this country. And taking absolutely no cognisance of that. Of the tourism benefits and all of that. Of the economic potential. I think in South Africa it's of critical importance. Just in terms of the current.

[00:20:10] Structure. So we say of the governments government governmental institutions a figure. Of the political hierarchy. They are very few people of color. That fish that fly fish in South Africa that I'm aware of. We'll be meeting 1:00 this afternoon. Dollar those are. For Mr. Young. Black ambassador. And a great chap and I think I think a great great great symbol of of which way South Africa can head towards flourishing with people of color I think. I think in terms of women there's there's a fair amount. Quite a few sponsors have been dragged kicking and screaming female sponsors that is by their male partners. And

in fact you know one or two one or two answers where the lady is actually the protagonist. And she's been the fly fisherman and the husband has been dragged kicking and screaming into the sport. And loving it loving it all the while. I'll tell you a funny story. I met my wife as an academic when we were when I was still at the university. We have a conference in the Midlands. Her parents used to own a hotel and we went to hold a large international conference. And. And the director of the centre centre where I was working was always concerned with these with these international conferences where you have we have these guests from other countries coming to a place for the first time they've only got half an hour on the conference. The rest of the other. One and a half eyes and the other. Yeah everything's on what's going on around them. You have to buy gifts for the family back home etc. They're not paying attention to the conference. So if you want to get out of town. So we actually hosted the conference in. The. Town midlands. Prime fly fishing country and we ended up dealing dealing with the daughter of the of the hotel at. And she took me fishing. So I'm married. We've never been fishing subsequent to that. Not to be too concerned about the technicalities. There's there is a lot if you do that if you do the reading there's a lot to get absorbed into and to be waylaid about it you get concerned about because he wishes you have to do this. You have to do that. Forget about it. Just. Step in boots and all and start waving that stick. That's. That's the simplest thing. The same advice what I give a flat tire. That's very you know I fell into that trap. That trap 20 years ago when I sort of floor time. I would not tie a pattern unless I had the requisite. Materials list as per the recipe of the materials. My greatest BYLINE If not for flattening is. Substitution. Substitution. Substitution. The catch. Grab the dog grab the stretched chicken from next door. Start dying of love.

[00:22:58] Forget about the materials list. Forget about the recipe.

[00:23:08] Tough call I say as a as a former marine biologist. I still have a strong hankering for the sea it still lives although although I haven't really seen the sea for many years or been involved in the sea I'd still like to catch catch a good couple of saltwater species and I suppose the. The. The iconic. There's got to be someone sitting on somewhere. Anybody says top on top on top in. I'm not particularly interested in a 100 pound or 200 pound type and I'm not but the baby chips the small top and in amongst that in amongst the Everglades or the mangroves that we take on I see something with a kind of like a seven to eight or an eight eight or nine weight with a better but a bit of backbone. There's 12 whites and 16 way to allow fishing for that gender pop. Doesn't really. That the.

[00:23:56] Really interest me. And then I think another species which is high on my list is golden grotto. Central South America Bolivia particularly. You get to order and kind of like open plains in northwestern Argentina which is very similar. I find I find I mean there are Charleston also so they like our tiger fish bowl like I'll give a sensational Central African tiger fish. But the planes and those open plains of Northwestern Argentina are very similar to the Zambezi fishing on the Zambezi. I like the idea of that Bolivian jungle the Amazonian jungle fishing in a under a forest canopy with a river and catching something they're just going to absolutely shred your.

[00:24:38] Well if your incident interest in any form of fly fishing I think you blow it in fishing. We have a we have a lot of guys that actually come through the shop. As you know that I wanted to learn fly fishing and they come from all forms of forms of other. The forms of fishing from Iran particularly I'm going to tell classic rock and surface very big bass angling is very big around here in terms of some of those some of the other woman parliaments Pietermaritzburg down to the coast of bass. So common. Competitive bass anglers. But everybody has. Kind of like has this. This idealistic or think that fly fishing is

an idealistic sport. Those in the air you know funny funny funny accented people in tweed jackets and you know it's not that at all.

[00:25:24] Fly fishing is probably about the best fun you can have out there in terms of fishing with your clothes on.