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Marc Petitjean [00:00:10] I mean. I mean, first of all, I start fly fishing in, when I was about, seven, with my grandfather. And then I turned back to fly fishing when I was, approximately, 25. And in Switzerland, there are so many options, so many rivers, so many mountains, with a lot of water coming down. So it was good for me to go again, fly fishing. And I start fly tying at this time. And I made my, from my O.B., my business, that was about 27 years ago. So it's long time. Stories, of course there is a lot of stories. Maybe I can tell you that story, I was invited to a show, and it was a Saturday, and 8:00 in the morning. So I use, in the big table, came and start to warm up a little bit, tying their first flies. And at this time, a couple came in the, the big marquee, we are outside. And that was a nice lady, with a fox hair, up to here, at the bottom. And she, she start to walk in with her, her man, and suddenly all the fly tiers stop winding, and looking at that girl, especially the coat. And the girl was coming in like this. And suddenly the man, said "Hey. They are not looking at you. They're looking at your coat." There is many, many stories we can say about fly tying, and fly fishing.

Marc Petitjean [00:02:06] Yeah. But, you know, as I was a kid, I was not allowed to touch the cane rod. Until I reached a certain age. And, and then I started fly fishing, because he was in, into fly fishing.

Marc Petitjean [00:02:27] I mean, this is very funny, because as soon as I reach Switzerland, because I'm born in France, and I moved to Switzerland about 40 years ago, and when I arrive in Switzerland. They say there is so many waters, and so many nice streams to fish, that I start again fly fishing. And, of course, I thought very rapidly, to fly tying, and a man who fish quite a lot, and quite good, in [unintelligible] asked me, watching my fly, to tie something new. Something new, that he would be able to see, because he was not very good at seeing far away, and which flowed very well. So he told me, "You should probably try to do something with [unintelligible] so I was very proud to tie some flies for someone else. Who, who knows very well, fly fishing in that country. And I, that was at the end of the season, and I had about four, five months to, to produce something. So I took that challenge, and they say, maybe I can do something for you. So I have been winding hackles like, probably 40-odd years ago. And. Like the one we are used to, to, to, to having in Switzerland, since the year 1920. You know this (fly tying materials). This is the first time actually, when we use CDC in fly tying. How you say, it's not from yesterday. And I was getting very close to the opening season, and then in the finalizing new. Until I decide to use the full feather, including the stem. To, to twist and wrap, twist and wrap, twist and wrap, over the whole chain. And that was very nice. It's so, so like material, that the hook was floating. And then I could, from that, create the no hackle fly, you know, because the float was floating, so I could make the shape, and how long I want to have the wings, without any problem. So it starts like this. And I remember, one time, I gave, I gave the box to a couple of friends, because I was having a headache, and could not go to the river with them. And when they came back, they say, "Marc, you are not fishing better, but your flies are fishing much better then." And then I will, I take it from there. And so I got two option at this time. Whether I write an article, and say, OK, that's on the, of the way of tying CDC. You use the food CDC, including the stem, to wrap over the hook shank. To create the body, or whether I make it my, my business. And I send the first of all of a few of my samples, to different people, all around the world, to get a feedback. You just, you know, many of us got the same problem. And so many brains are thinking the same, at the same time. So it would have been a pity to say, "OK that's nice Marc, but, you know, this is best for flies We know already for years," and so on. And I got quite, quite a bit feedback, from all over the world. Famous writers, saying that, no, this is new. This is a no hackle fly. And

this, this is something that will work very well. And so I was kind of embarrassed, whether to write just an article, or whether to start to do my business. And this is what I've done. I mean, I jumped. As they say. So I, I was the number 83, on a company of 400 people. And from one day to another, I became the number one, in a one man company.

James Thull [00:06:43] That's great.

Marc Petitjean [00:06:44] And that was 25 years ago, now 27 year, 27 years ago. And then I discover a lot of technique, to get advantage of the CDC, I've been creating the magic tool, and many also tying tools, which definitely makes life much easier.

Marc Petitjean [00:07:07] I would say, there is less and less dealers. The distributors doesn't do the job they should do, very often, and they've got to print a nice catalog, they have a nice web page with all the product. But they do not spend time to explain to the final end user, the quality of the product, and what, why there is this product and that product, and that product. So that's the reason I do a lot of shows, like this one. I mean, I'm out of the office about 20 weekends a year. I'm going, for instance, two times, at least, in the States. But I go also in Japan, in New Zealand, everywhere. To shows like today. To be, to make some demonstration, and time demonstration, and seminars and classes, and so on. Because I think that, in the last two decades, the distributors and the dealers do not have time enough, to spend to explain to the final customers. And on top of that, at the same time, the same period of time, we discover the emails, and and web page, and so on. Which mean that now, it's very easy to get product from all over the world, not the next day, but in a couple of days. So, yes. That changes quite a lot in the industry, and in the business.

Marc Petitjean [00:08:52] Everybody who has been at the origin of a technique, and, for instance for me the, the people, which has been bringing in the CDC. I'm talking about the year 1920. Very important, because we have been tying for years, a hundred years, maybe 200, or 300 years. The same way. Using chicken knuckle, or soft tackle. And one time there is a guy who said, "Hey, why not using those CDC?" And the CDC structure of the fibers are so different. And they are so soft, so that they dropped a lot of rayon, and they are very light. And that changed completely. And, for instance, that was a very traditional way of tying, I'm talking, but for me, it's important people who, come in with the new idea. And in that case, that was a new feather. And then, we have to wait, approximately 40 years, until a guy I'm sure you know, or you have heard of, my and Frank Nick, with the F clock. So it's a very simple way of tying a fly. But it's a very effective fly. So for, for me. This is very important. Because. It can make a red one, or a blue one, or whatever, but. He is the man who decides to use the CDC, not like the English traditional acronym, but just as a caddy swing. Two feathers, done. So this is very quick. And then there is another guy. Who I like very much, is Gary Lively, because he's the one who say, "OK. We can take advantage of the bob, of the CDC. But take off this step." And he put those fibers in dubbing loom. So. Once again, whatever, the matter is not what kind of flies can you do with that. But it's to get the idea of using this material, that way. And then come with the idea of using the full CDC, instead of doing the dubbing. You know, when you do a dubbing, you have a lot of problem, to do, to make it very nicely conical. Using this conical stem of the CDC, you guarantee that you will get a conical body shape for your mayfly. So this is major steps. More than a fancy blue man, or whatever.

Marc Petitjean [00:11:39] What is special about Switzerland. It is because we are very high above sea level. The average is about this 800 meters. We have snow on top of the mountain. We have a lot of very quick streams, short stream, and quick stream. And very

clear water. And because we do not protect rivers, it's open to all kind of fish. And this is probably the bad thing of it. So, maybe you will have very small kind of the size of a fish. But we do have Grayling, and we do have trouts.

Marc Petitjean [00:12:19] [French]

Marc Petitjean [00:12:56] When I started fishing, I was fishing for trout and grayling. Mainly. And nowadays I would say, I fish everything. Everything with fly or fly rod. I've been fishing for carp, for bonefish, for everything. And so I like it very much, because it is, in a way. Quite open to fly fishing in different countries, we travel more. For fishing, for fly fishing than we did when I started. And as far as the changes, the climate change, of course. It changes. At this time, it's pretty cold here. But in my country it's too warm. So I really, am really worried about what is going to be the next season, as far as the amount of water we have in our rivers, and how the fish are going to resist against this problem. I'm sure they will. But the heat will be changed. Definitely. What I don't like, is so many dams. That we have, we have been building up everywhere. And what I don't like, too much, also, is the fact that everything is connected with electronic systems. So if someone needs electricity, so maybe a turbine is going to start, and, and provide cold water in places where we should have warm water. So, no, I don't like too much, those. But in another way, I don't like also, to have some troubled system with nuclear power. So what should I, should I say. And another thing, I would say, the agriculture definitely, in making big damage to our rivers. Because we have been draining the water, out of the field, and the field doesn't play the filter. But, in terms of time, and in terms of cleaning the water. So, yes, this is bad. And for instance in Switzerland, we do use a lot of salt on our roads during the wintertime. So where do these salts end up? In the rivers. So, no, I'm not so, so happy. But in another way, if you consider pollution, not like a single problem, but many problem, I would say this is like a backpack, in which you have one problem, which is the dam. One, another stone, will be because you drain, quickly, the water to rivers. Another problem will be the pesticide, or whatever toxic product you are going to spread all around, close to the river, river. And then you have another problem. So it's not only one problem, but probably four, five or six different problems together. Which make that the end, you cannot walk anymore. But in another way, if you, if you take one stone, or two stone, the nature is going to come back again. So, I very often say that, if you are not driving on the road. Two, two years later the tree will be there.

Marc Petitjean [00:16:29] I will probably tell them to study, carefully, the marketing. Because as far as fly tying is concerned, I think it's a little bit narrow. Because you can get fly tying, flies from all over the world. So it's not easy, to do what I've done, that was 30 years ago. It's probably now impossible to do it. Unless, you are lucky, like I've been, to find a product which is a unique product, and you are the first people who have been using the product. So I will be very shy of pushing anybody in that direction. I mean, I'm talking about fly tying. If you want to create reels and rods and fly tying material, that's another, fly tying vices or tools. That's another question. But tying flies, and making your living out of tying flies, I wouldn't necessarily recommend that. Unless you have very, very good ideas.

Marc Petitjean [00:17:41] I mean we're, we're, I don't know if we can be active in politics, but, because we are unfortunately very low numbers, compared to the other group of active politicians. So. But, I mean, we do what we can. But we are very little. Unfortunately, we have not a lot of power.

Marc Petitjean [00:18:11] I would say I like very much, I'm very lucky, to have been doing from, owning my business. Very lucky. There is so many people who. Who. Do not like

what they do. So, first of all, thanks God, for having, putting me on the right track. For the last, I would say, yes, 30 years. And I think fly fishing is probably one of the most thing, where I can meet people worldwide. I have friends everywhere, and so I'm very happy of being part of it.