

swisher-doug-2016-02-05.mp4

[00:00:13] I think for me. Part of it is the travel. I've been blessed. You know I've traveled the world to fish. And I've. Me and Carl Richards. Have written two most popular books in the history of fly fishing. Selective trout and fly fishing strategy. They're both head and shoulders the biggest sellers. And nothing else is even close. And. So in a way it was kind of fun doing the research. And. Doing the writing. And I especially love the photography because I got into. I noticed the dreaded. Macro. But. Photography. Books are just full of. You know me flies an artificial and everything. So. But anyway another thing for me. Is the athletic. Part. Of fly fishing. In other words the casting. I. Over the years. Have probably participated in more sports than anybody you've ever met. I played everything everything. In high school college army. And. I just love. On a tight loop and an accuracy. And now that I'm. 83 years old. My shoulders you're. Kind of getting beat up from all the passes I threw and all the football I played that well on and I pitch. For years.

[00:02:08] Both softball and hardball. And. It's getting harder to do that stuff. But even so at 83. I can still throw 90 feet while the five weight when I have to. So you know I've just got grooved I guess. I don't know but I love the athletics of the sport and I and I love the travel. I've probably done more. Schools around the world than anybody. Even lefty cray. You know I did. 18 years in a row and Alaska. Did 16 years in a row in New Zealand. I did Australia Chile. Russia. You know all of all over the world I've done billions of schools. And. Course writing the two books was kind of exciting. So anyway I've been just totally involved with the sport and now I love. Fishing out of the Kik boat. And and we kick. We don't have those damn wars I just despise that deal. When people tell me they fish in. Kickball. And they're using Jaws.

[00:03:32] I use flippers and and I have the strongest legs of a 83 year old you've ever met period. In fact we go to work out every other day. And keep the legs going. You know I'll probably keel over one of these days but a real good old till I can't do it anymore. So anyway it's just a total sport. You know you've got the same read the travel though going around the world. I enjoy teaching. When I. Took the test that you take out of high school to see what your skills are. It always came up teacher teacher teacher. And I. I won a scholarship to the. University of Michigan. Take Issue know it is. And. I didn't even take it because I went to Michigan State and saw how nice the campus was and I just bypassed you them and went to the. University. I mean Michigan State. And. Boy they have a good basketball team now. So anyway and it just just total involvement I guess with the sport. I just love it and. My writing partner Carl Richards you know of him I assume he passed away in 0 2 I think it was unfortunately. And. He was probably the most talented. FISHERMAN I ever fished with. And definitely the best and the colleges in the world. He was on leave. But unfortunately he was also a super dentist and he was so sick you know he didn't have time for it for all efficient like I did. So anyway. So. That's that's why I like it. Excellent.

[00:05:46] Oh have I have a son and a daughter. And I started. Randy my son at about eleven. And now we're just about right. But my daughter. And girls are ahead of boys a couple of years. I started Christy at nine. And. That's about the age I would recommend. Although I started it. By. I. I don't see any major difference. You know I I've taught thousands of people and. I don't know. I sometimes think the women learn quicker than the men do. And they have the finesse and not the big muscles. And. Just like she's not exactly. Big and strong but. Whole fly like five weight boom. Gone. So many. And that's fun to watch. That's fun to watch. Yeah I will start with the all purpose fly with a fly that I call it Georgie long legs. It's called Georgie. Because you know what. What's the name of the

likely fish. Every week George J. George sound like you know that is. The best fish that I've probably found the state. We used this Georgie name and it's just some very basic. Fuzzy now. And I can show you one later if you want. As far as Zite difficult tie. We have a fly we're tired now we're in the flight time business and. We have a flight called the Vail fly. Have you heard of Vail flies. It brings about I think but OK. A failed fly. Is really two flies. It's a fly underneath a veil. So you tie a body you put out. We usually put a glow in the dark eye on it. And I've got some amazing stuff for that if you want to see it. But. Anyway. Then. Then we put a. Veil over it. So when and it's out of synthetic fibers. And when these fibers get wet they get translucent. So you can see through it. So this ice sticks out. And forms a veil. And that's been our probably our one of our better flies over the last couple of years. And it it's really one of the more difficult ones that tie. Because you tie it to flies and trying to put them together and you got to be careful you don't cross the eye. So. You just said it synthetic doesn't make sense. Oh yeah. I would say so. And. Also I don't know if you mess around with the glow in the dark and now the latest is you the ultraviolet. And. As.

[00:09:21] To what that light's for. We've been all over the house. We got about seven or eight a.m. And. That's what supposedly. You turn that light on that black light. And if it glows. Then SUV. Wow. And in case you didn't know what fluorescent is you and. Also. So you can tie a fly that's both UVA and. Glow in the dark. Moth and we're doing a lot of that right now. So what we're trying to stay ahead of the curve. So. Anyway. Oh I think a lot of people are Just plain interested in the history of anything. And I think you. If you have a desire to know that history you just automatically learn. Quicker about the sport and love me help you down the line and in your presentation and knowing the species than and just. It's just very helpful. Yes. Probably. Most most of the places I've fished have been. Really good place like lot of spring creeks of course over in your area. A good spring breaks I fishes them for the last 60 years. For God sakes. However if you ever heard of London likes. No. Australia. There's a guy over there. That. Took some. Natural. Habitat. Partially legs partially connected by streams. He'd dug them out a little more. Imported some. Bugs. And yes the darndest setup. I've ever seen in my life. I mean I fish rush in every damn place in the world. And he and. Well actually the Tasmanian Government that that's where it is Tasmania which is part of. Australia. He taught the Tasmanian Government into inviting me over. To check his lodge on London lakes and. My car. It's a very. Very small lodge but it's really nice right on the shores of this lake and you can fish the stream or the lake and it's you know it's full up per usual. Big Fish browns and bows. And. Due to the fact. That he's imported. All of these bugs. And larva. He has UN believable hatches so you have these big fish. Feeding all they can like you do over the spring Craig Smith the fishery then bigger and. It was just. One of the most exciting places. That I've ever fished.

[00:13:00] And I stayed there for a week. I never caught so many big fish. Well if you had to work for him but if you did he. You had results. And. I could. List about. 15 guys that he had had over. You know I left him with locked them. All up. And. Just had a. Fantastic time. So on the last day that we finished up. He walked up and put his arm around me says. He says. You've put on quite a demonstration. I said Well thank you very much. He said Would you like to be the coach. Of the Australian team in the world championships next year. It was going to be. Jackson. After he told me what it was going to pay me I said yes. So anyway that following. Season. I went down to Jackson Hole for about three weeks. Couple of weeks to practice with this team. I think there were. 10 members. And. Just just had a ball and the year that he. Didn't have me teach. His people they came and 22nd in the world. In the year I taught him they came in two. And just had a. Great time became one of my best friends. And unfortunately he's he's passed a few years ago. But he. To answer your question. That the London lakes is just probably the most fantastic. Other than that. The spring creeks of New Zealand. And the Mattera area do you know the

Metairie river and do not. OK. That's called the greatest brown trout stream in the world. It is. On the city limit sign when you come into town that says that this is in New Zealand is that. Oh yeah. By Gore OK. In the south I'm not. And. I'm. A little late. 13 years in a row to teach there. And quite often I usually went. In February. And quite often stayed on May or June. Year after year after year. You'll never find anybody that's fish New Zealand. Thank God. And it's just fantastic. Oh.

[00:15:58] Boy. I'm afraid I don't know how to answer that question. Just keep the balance. I don't know what to say. You know there are places. Like even a Georgetown Lake. They have some of the most beautiful Brook trout you ever saw in your life. But Joanie catch maybe one a weaker one every other day. And. Other other net. It's mostly rainbows. And then I know some. Some ponds over your way that. Have the most beautiful brown trout I've ever seen. And they've been that way. Since they were planted in 32. I think it was. Jess. Oh God you go nuts when we catch one. So. I don't know what else to say about. If you have fed it to the person although I. I think far too many anglers get started with gear that's too heavy. Course. It's kind of easy for me to say that because I have. Problem with both arms. Now after all. That throwing and stuff I've done and the casting. I have arms out of both been. Operated on. So I tend to go to lighter gear than most but I think lighter gears a lot more fun. My standard ride is seven and a half foot four four. That's pretty much what I used for almost everything. Now. When I do my salt water schools and I used to guy out there for 15 years in Naples. Most. Guys down there. Well the gals are not many gals but I. Tend to use like for TARP and they'll use twelve weights in. This big heavy stuff and then it just kind of heavy for me it really hurts me to cast wood so I fish most of my top and with seven weights. And. We've got a picture of her with a big turban. Seven wait. So. You know it depends what you want. But I. Know obviously you can throw a heavy rig further than you can a light rig. So. Some people to enhance or casting. Go to the heavier Rod. And I I don't do that. I just try to learn to throw real. Tight loops. And to me that's a tight loop. Some people that's a tight end. So you shoot the thing so much further. And. And I have a lot of power on my wrist because my shoulders are messed up. So life or Target. I even do weights and my wrist and so forth. It depends on your physical stature. You know how to watch what you have.

[00:19:11] What kind of gear you have in your human body. And. But now I say for the average person. To start out you know the nine first six is. Pretty standard. It's personal very personal. Dave Whitlock. Dave's. Expertise in. Vast bugs he's very good. I've fished with Dave one hundred times or more. He used to go down to the White River and fish with him. For trout or bass whatever. And. If I had to pick. Right now today. The best. Fly tyer in the world. She's about 30 feet from me. You know most like I said Dave would like was was a bass bug expert. Nobody better. Unbelievable. She does anything. Doesn't matter if. It's tarpon. Fly that long. Or Spring Creek. Over in your area. And tied an upside down done size 28. So what. Their home. And. You know if you want a name of a female. Another female fly tirade. I really wouldn't know who to tell you. But I would like it is one that I really admire. Well. My first requirement would be somebody that. Tells the truth. There are so many. People in the world of fishing not only fly but anything that exaggerate. And it's just. Unbelievable. So. I think somebody that tells us the truth. Somebody that's very athletic can get under that wrist snap right away. And. Probably the two main characteristics.

[00:21:55] Again get your athletics down get you a good corporate coordination on your your armour steel. Don't be afraid to. Exercise and get in shape because. There's a lot of stand and shaped it makes you. Better. And also read read the books of the. Of the boys that have been around for a while. You know. That generally foxes and similar narratives

that Joe Brooks and learn from others all you can. Pal around with somebody that's a. Good fisherman. I don't know. I don't know what else to tell you. Just like you would probably most any sport get involved. Yeah. People we kill fish. I feel so strongly about that. I. Personally. Have not killed a fish. The fact that. That 14 inch Brown Trump that I first got. I didn't kill it. I didn't want to. Put. An and I. I can't remember. Killing one on purpose. I'm you know taking one home that put in refrigerator or something which is I just. I just can't stand them. I can't damn it. And why. They don't have more. Regulations. Especially in Montana. I just don't know. Why. You know. An example is when you when you finally get the golf ball in the hole you know walk up pull it out and eat the damn thing. No. No. Yeah. You don't kill your sport. And people that kill fish. I just I have very little patience for. I'm sorry I'm sorry to say that but. Oh I I have some patience but. I don't like. I don't see a need for it. Why. The heck. Did you do it. I haven't knowingly killed a fish in. 83 years. So. Anyway. And I think Montana suffers a little bit from that. The. THEME OF THINGS AROUND HERE. The mentality of most people was. To kill. And I see so many people that belong to Teemu. And the fishing groups. That. That talk.

[00:24:51] About conservation and not killing fish and stuff. And then you go out with them. When. Their career is full. So I just don't understand that. I don't. So I think regulations are. Really necessary. Some. It's it's an interesting history too because I mean I. Angling develop certainly as a way to catch. And harvest fish. I would say that certainly the history of the sport and how it came to be and that's what one of the things I think that it makes it unique. Over. Over golf or football or anything else it said it developed as a way to sustain don't even damn ball. Sure. Yeah. I mean is there is there a balance. Is there a place where. Where the environment where the where the population can sustain some. More base but I don't know where it is really. Oh you know you. You know. Alaska is is probably the easiest place. In the world. To catch Maximum number of big fish that there is anywhere. I mean that is really a place where you catch a lot of fish. So I suppose up there if you killed one Allen then you wouldn't be hung at dawn but would there's not many other places that I know of. Like when I was. Overfishing in Russia I mean God everything that was. Touched was killed. I mean I just. I. Don't like That's been I've got fish in Africa fish in Asia several times Europe. But that's my experience especially and I would say like Vietnam or Thailand or the Philippines or Tanzania is that it's you know when I when I would put a fish back I would get some really weird looks say did not understand the concept of putting fish back in the water. And I from. The perspective of. That's dinner. I I can understand it from from their view. They're not I think a lot of times they're not efficient for the sport they're efficient eat.

[00:27:12] Yeah I was fishing with Dick Nelson who was. He passed away. He developed the Antarctic fly which is a fly tied out of yarn. I don't know if you know it. But his. His steel had Bantam was one of the best I've ever used. And I was out fishing with him at Christmas time. A few years before he died in San Jose's where he lived. In his a little stream just south of San Jose and I can't think of the name of it right now. But this is Oh you want to. Want to go fishing on Christmas Day. Okay. Well we were out there to go to the Rose Bowl. Michigan State was planning anyway. So we went fishing in this little stream that was about 30 feet wide. And was 200 people. I mean it was armpit armpit. And it was. Quite a long cast over to the other side. I mean you know we had hopeless people in your way. So anyway. I got the fly over there right away. Right away I. Hope to still have happy I guess it was twenty pound something like that on the help of England. And I just enjoyed it and I thought it burned. Then. I immediately released it like that. And it was about ten people that just about killed themselves trying to grab that fish that I released. And I oh that made me say. Nice day let's get out of here. So anyway that's the way I feel

about it. Well is is what regulation we have. And quite frankly most of the good regulations are in the eastern states.

[00:29:10] That's because they have more killing you know. But states like New York and Pennsylvania. Are probably the leaders and in good regulations and catch and release areas. That's good part. And what did we lose. Well. I don't know. Just just. Probably pollution. You know it's. Like Flint Michigan. Yes. Isn't that sad. Yeah that is. That's. You just named my thanks to you and an. FFL. Probably. You know. I have to be quite kind to them because. Back when will. You know when the books came out and I really. My name was was really quite big. I couldn't get enough night's book with slideshows and they're wrong have to you and that FSF just about. Yeah sometimes. Well you know it you. What was funny. Still got. Some of. Some of these clubs. You get some of these clubs in the big cities like New York Chicago. Detroit. They have these clubs big groups of millionaires. And they're just. Pretty much all fish killers. You know it just. Just just terrible. And. I I finally get to the point. Yeah you know these guys from Chicago Kathy were all millionaires. They call me every month and say Oh. What do you come to Chicago again. Because he didn't want to pay me. And finally I got the point I said not my mall but itself but I really enjoyed doing the effort of the you people in it. And there were a lot of individual clubs around the country. You know I do local clubs in Montana all the time. You know I'd be happy to. So I do a freebie but you know. Swear me to live in there for a while. So. It just depends on the character of the person. You know some people you know don't mind the killing and some really do. I don't know what to say about it like I gave them a son and a daughter that they just. Really revolt to think about killing a fish. That's because I taught them that way. Although I said that I didn't kill any trout when I was you know probably four or five years old. My grandpa used to take me BlueBell fishing in Michigan and there were some lakes around Claire Michigan where the tobacco river. But these were lakes and there were so many blue gills you couldn't see the bottom got spruce. So and I think my recollection was we killed a few of those not. Not really even too many lows. But you know I guess it's supply and demand. I don't know what to tell you. Well like I said in the beginning the athletics were in a lot of people. Athletics of fly fishing and. To me it's very athletic sport.

[00:33:23] Was there an individual that kind of brought you in. Oh my dad. My dad was tremendous at doing that. And my grandpa grandpa did a lot. And as far as the fishermen down the line Joe Brooks Joe Brooks was the man I used. I got the point where I fish with him every fall in the spring creeks and we go down to Armstrong and like a lot of people do you get a big fish feeding and then we take turns we take each. I don't know for string that's for five or something then we'd switch and now he would. He was such a wonderful man. What would when he died. I think he was almost as old as I am now. Maybe maybe this is 78. I think something like that. And he was about six foot two big stately man. If you take that for weight that's all you ever fish out of scientific angers. They remember they had those golf glass rods over different weight boop boop boop yellow for weight. He'd take that sucker up there for that perfect glue that thing and flap over and it was just beautiful to watch. He was a great caster great person and just fun to be around.

[00:34:58] And and he wrote You know Carl and I the reasons selective trout. Are you familiar with that. That's. Its biggest seller of all time called Deep lions he'll die. And the reason was no hackles my mama I was totally different. Why. Well Joe Brooks was partly responsible because the first day that I fished with him after I got out of the Army I had signed up with Westinghouse out of college out of Michigan State. I was in the Army two years. I came back and I was supposed to go back to Pittsburgh to work for Westinghouse. And I was just grabbing it for two hours because right after college I went

to Pittsburgh to sign up with Westinghouse and I just hated the town. The town was horrible then it's probably okay now but anyway I just didn't want to go back. So my dad knew some people from Midland Michigan though that will. Work for Dow Chemical. Do you ever ever heard of certain cars. What years were you in the army. 55 56. So when I got back in 57 I had to go to allow Westinghouse. They want me to come right out and get to work and as soon as I got home I asked my dad. I said gee how well do you know these guys. Dow Chemical. And my dad ran up a whole plant in Bay City Michigan for Dow Chemical during the war. And they made of all things magnesium hand grenades and they were rocked like a baseball. Anyway so he he knew that. The Dow Chemical people so we had a big way go over to our house for dinner one night and my folks were living and Carol in Michigan. You know that is in the thumb. OK. Good things in country if you like them anyway. The guy says. Come on over. I was a mechanical engineer he says oh we're looking for some engineers one over the next week and they hired me on the spot. And so boy I could pick up the phone and call Westinghouse and say bye bye. So.

[00:38:05] So. So I worked for four down there for years. That was my beginning and that was about the time I really get going in fly fishing because in the town in little Michigan was the plant that made the fly lines for scientific gamers. So. Off fact they were right down the street from where I parked my car. When I worked for Dow and I got the reputation of when they needed somebody to be a guy you might say like Joe Brooks had come to town first. First time he did they call me said Hey would you like to take your Brooks cheese. I just trembled. Oh my God. So anyway I that that's how I met him. And then the second time they came back and Mary came with him. She was quite a good fisherman too. She was very good. But anyway one of my little stories was that I was going to tell you when we developed the north tackle fly frankly we started catching a hell of a lot more fish. That was pretty hard. Did you ever fish the ensemble. No really I have not. No. OK I don't know of any rivers that has more efficient. It's unbelievable. There's you know once a while you get one like this but they're pretty small and there's still Grayling in there. Nope. No. That those got wiped out and I think 1932. Back when they were logging. Yeah. So. Anyway. But they have all three species were brown and Brooks. So the dad took to Joe Brit fishing. Carl and I had just finished writing selected trout. And we carried the manuscript in the trunk of my car. So we had all these pictures. Oh do there's beetles. OK. That's happened today. We go fishing for it. So it was our own guide. So anyway. To keep track of the more fish that we were catching. You know the golf counter as I have. I got the idea when I did a golf counter and you try to keep track of fish when you're having a real good day. You kind of lose track. But with a glove column every time I have time I touch a fish I touch the golf cart. So. That. The day I took Joe Brooks. I didn't make any effort to try to. Get him to use our flies or no vehicles or anything. And after about an hour of fishing.

[00:41:20] He was fishing just upstream from the river. I noticed things were kind of slow for him. So. He came up and said What the hell are you efficient. And it was a little bit of snow Haskell. And. My golf cart read forty seven. He said he don't like it. And I didn't. Make fun of it or anything he said Why. He said. Is there a telephone around here. Well we're out in the boondocks near Grayling Michigan. And I knew about 10 miles down this gravel road there was. A phone from the corner. Once again. What do you want it for. So let's just go get a phone. So we went down any conversion glass and game. Who was. His. Guy that did his books. He. Put us on the line. And he says. These guys have gotten a new deal on the no ankle line. And I'd like you to help them out. Blasting game and fighting this. New York. Introduced. Us to. Alliance. Nicolai. I. Am sure you know where Nick is. We have his papers. And. That. Tells us. He did selective trial. One. But the first thing he did. Do you remember. Our flick. Yeah. Okay. He wrote them stream side guy. And it was. Pretty slick. Successful I think. It is a number three now. In sales. Selective trout fly fishing

strategy. Yeah I'm pretty sure it is it doesn't matter anyway. He made a statement. In that book. That it was impossible. Maybe you read this somewhere along the way to catch the green drink the eastern green Drake. Said you just couldn't catch him. He said he couldn't get a picture of him or. Anything. So I didn't know our flick from a rock. But I found out where he lived. The. West kill New York. A few weeks later. I took a plane to New York. I found his house. I asked her. Where he lived. Everybody knew where. Our flight lives. Right across the street. From his house was a scary river. I don't know if you've heard of this scary but it's one of the well known Eastern streams. But a 20 foot wide nosed narrow region. Did. A group. In Mouth. I went to the local hardware I got me a shovel. No. Like it. I went in the mike right across the street from his house. And took me about five minutes to dig up a grange. But we put a bunch up in the bucket went over and knocked on the door. He came to the door. Introduced myself. I said. Here's a grinning Drake.

[00:45:11] He was just dumbfounded. I don't know why he thought you couldn't get the things he thought they were just did he lose them. You know in the muck and everything. So Floyd had established a friendship. So the next weekend I got. I think I was still I think I did some business out there. And. He invited me to fish the sky Harry with him. We became very good friends. And. He told Nick Lyons about the experience. Nick wanted to see our pictures. And he's. A saw. Saw the pictures that we were doing the macro photography. And they decided to do another edition. Of. His book. And they. Put. My. Picture that I took of the Hendrickson. On. The cover of the book. If I give you a good look on the. Computer and look it up. And there's a picture of that Hendrickson in the upper corner is a picture over the fly. That's great. But but the book is full of pictures that I did that myself. I didn't get Carl involved in that. So. I knew they were working on a new edition of the stream site guide. So. About six months later. I was on a business trip. And I stopped in Buffalo New York. And. I was on the way out to the. Factory. My. So. I was going to the factory for the people I work for. And I went in with the plane or stopped in Buffalo. And Buffalo I don't know if you've ever been there but they have a very good. Bookstore. And just a great bookstore. I walked in the bookstore. And I looked across to the other side and there. Was my picture on the front of our art book just about. Craft and I went running across picked it up.

[00:47:33] That's all history now but that's kind of the way we get started. Joe Brooks made the call. Ah flick made the push for his book. And Nick Lyons did it. And. That was just part of quite a friendship. So. Anyway. Branch. To me they're the prettiest. You know a big ole Brook drought is gorgeous too. You know. And so. They're all pretty but I if I had to pick a favorite to be around and that that's one reason I liked the material. So much in New Zealand because it's. It's all round round. After. Got. Beautiful. And I like where they feed. And how they feed. You know that they're just great feeders so. Oh. Well. I. I just I just did it so damn much. I mean. I kind of felt after that few years. Experience in. An. And in doing all the fishing and doing all of the schools. I was gaining quite a knowledge of it. And Carl Richards also wondered right about it. So. The nice thing about two guys doing something. Is one inspires the other. So he was pushing me I was pushing him we fished together all the time. Soon as we get the damn drill I confiscate it unsexy. It was a good day announces the guy I went to. I wish I had him now but anyway. Joe. Brooks. Is hardly. Carl Richards my buddy Mike the guy that the co-author. He was. Probably the best fly fisherman I ever met. And he was incredible. Being a dentist. He worked with his hands. And he specialized in doing faults. He was a freak but everybody wanted Carl to do the false teeth. And so he he was. He was Time flies for a hardware store. In Columbus Ohio. He went to Ohio State. He was a competitor. He went to Ohio State same time I went to Michigan State. That we had a lot of competition. But anyway he was tying. Flies. For a hardware store in Columbus.

[00:50:43] When he was seven years old. So he he got an early start. So he became. A very good flight. And you like Carl's flight time. Yeah yeah yeah. He taught her an awful lot. I just hated to see him pass any. He had a little bit of a drinking problem. Some. Anyway. Carl was probably the best flat tire. That I ever knew and when I was younger at least today. Well Whitlock is one of the great ones. Her. There are other authors today that you appreciate their there were no other authors. I. I mean Lou. I was. Going. To show you something here and it. Wolf flick was a pretty good. Author. He tied the old Catskills type dry flies. Long hack on beautiful everything just laid right in there. He was he was great. Joe Brooks wasn't much of flighty or use a great author and course he was the outdoor writer outdoor editor of outdoor life. And you were he wrote several books. And I don't know which the question tire or author. Yeah well Lee and John Walker were good authors. Not so good in the fish and fish with the many many many times because I think they kind of specialized in the same. Yeah. Yeah. Oh. Oh. One of the best. Ernie Ernie was probably as good as Whitlock is you know. Whitlock is an artist. He's a very good artist. And Ernie Zee even better if you ever seen his book. No. All hers. Oh and there that. Yeah. For me just great and I fish a lot with Ernie. Although way had a little story with him the first time I met him. If you have heard of Henryville that's in Pennsylvania it's it's quite a famous place to fish. That's where Ernie used to fish all the time. And I had read his book. I knew matching the hatch better than Ernie did because I used to ask him questions about it and he says jeez I forgot.

[00:54:09] So anyway I had many MIT and Harvard and sent somebody told me at Henryville lodge that he was coming up at that afternoon. So I went out to the main hole where they said he liked to fish and I was fishing that way. And I cut to the about two hours. Not too good. And I thought Oh God Ernie's Come on I gotta do business. And pretty soon I hear this diesel Mercedes come on across the metal and it was Ernie. He always drove Mercedes in an honest to God I just shook because I was going to meet Ernie. I thought he was God. At that point I really did. And he drove up and he respected my area. So we stayed back a little and he got out the fish just below me about 50 yards. Maybe I just watch too much and and free fish about hour and a half more I guess. He caught one. I couldn't believe that so. And then that night I went to the lodge and had dinner and somebody introduced me and I just I just trembled. Here he was. He was a great person in a. Well versed enough in English vocabulary. Fish were the kings and queens and and he was a good fish and then I. After that I used fish with him in the fall on Henry's orca snake. So he was a great fish guy. He was a great fisherman great all but. Very good an artist. Oh boy. So. If I had any little stories I told you about London lakes this is probably the maybe that one of the top places in the world. Maybe you got to look that up. Yeah. Well yeah. My cousin just accepted a position in New Zealand too.

[00:56:36] So I'm hoping to get our visitor one of the years when I was doing all the schools in New New Zealand. I just hopped on a plane and Auckland and it's our flight over to. What's the big town. Australia. Sydney Australia and I had some friends that were living there and I've spent a day with them. They toured me around then I got on a flight to Hobart which is down in Tasmania. And then it's about 45 minutes from the lodge and I went down there and spent that week there and then became the Australian mentor. And then I went. Were there any other fish and stories that jumped out to you that you'd like to share. I did. I had one here I was going to tell you an excellent about Curt Gowdy you know. Yeah. Who. Kurt. Yep he's probably the greatest one of the greatest broadcasters of all time and had a booming voice. You know he was something else and he was always doing doing them. American sportsmen. And he did a a game in Detroit one day the tyers were playing the Yankees and that night he got on a plane going to Boston. It was his

home. I got on a plane go into Boston and become one of the companies I worked for was up in Massachusetts. So we get on the same plane and when I got on him he was sitting in the first row 2 2 2 2. He was at the window and I sat down beside him. And the reason I said down. Hey that's. I knew who Kurt Gowdy was mainly because the American sportsman. And I sat down my news current see in those days I used to carry out always a box of flies with me. So life. Well I pulled a box of flies out of my suit coat put my table down you know and he read the paper.

[00:59:23] I mean he just always read the paper of to know sports and everything and they got you. They opened up my eyes I started laying them on my my little table you know and I could see him start looking because I knew we liked fly fishing. And after about 15 minutes we were just taken off I guess. He said I can do fly fish. I said Huh. It was right after selective trout came up. Oh I said I've been known to a little bit and now we get guac and then he started looking for flies. Then I had a bunch of no accolades and he was interested in knows. So we chatted all the way to the Boston they found out how much I got him to fly fishing easily. Gee why don't you come out and fish with me someday. You will stay at my house. So I said okay. Well I went on up to mass and did my business for a couple days came back went back to Michigan and I said I am not going to wait till my next business trip. That's probably two months from now. So I called him up about a week later. I sent a curve. You remember me now. Nick Swisher. Oh yeah. You had those little head of Lies Love. I said gee I am coming out in business with a big lie. He said Oh you can just stay a day or two. I said I think so. So I just booked a trip. Flew to Boston. Call him up pick me up at the airport in his big limo. Went to his house stayed overnight. He says I'm going to try a new kind efficient. I'd never done before he said. You can join me with it. Then after that we go fish for some Brook drop in a stream up and mastered it just so what he one to fish for. Was what do you what do you call of. Shad are saltwater fish. They come up the little rivers at a certain time and then they go back out. They only stay a week or two. I'd never fish for him either. I've heard up. He had to. So we went to a fly shop. We had breakfast we went to a fly shop and we said Gee we're gonna try shad fishing. You got any tips for us. I didn't know anything about it I'd never done it. And the guy in the fly shop says oh you need these fires. He sold a whole bunch of damn flies. I think they were black. And he said the way efficient you put them on a sinking leader.

[01:02:48] Get a split shot let the fly go down to the bottom. And he said just barely move it. You know don't don't move it fast. OK. So. It. Had about a half hour drive to this little stream. We jumped out and obviously the shad were in there. People all over the damn place fished scope. It was a stream only 20 feet wide. We jumped in up to your waist. And let the fly go down. A. Little bit a little teeny bit of movement. We did that for about a half an hour. Never had a strike. Never had a damn strike. And Kurt was a very. Antsy kind of guy. He wanted stuff to happen. He said let's get the hell out of here. So I'm going to the car. So he. Stopped out of the stream. And I said sometimes these fly people don't. I. Always have it right. So I threw it out and just stripped the crap out of it as fast as I could move the fly and they started it. In the fast movement got him going. He was up on the car just ready to take his waders off any a lift over. What are you doing. I said boy come on back I. Got it figured out. So he came back and we stood there for about two hours. Must've cut 50 of the damn things before a while about that big. I ended up fishing them later on in. What's the capital of Sacramento California. They have gone up the Sacramento River. I met my son Randy out there one day and we just got Ella. But anyway that was kind of interesting that I. I made up the trip. That's right. Let's touch it just for the whole. Day. And do it. So that was the beginning. Then after that we did that for a while. Then we went in some other little stream. And there were some brook trout that we caught red. So we had some pretty good fish and then I stayed till the next day and we

fished a little more stuff from the damn thing then. Then I got to know and better and better. And he had. A place down in Miami Miami Beach. And Berkeley the fishing tackle. People had a. Big meeting down at his condo. And I started doing some stuff for Berkeley. So they asked me to come. I went down and here's Curt Gowdy with his flats boat. And he says Hey. He says. Let's go fishing again right. OK. And he pulled me around the bay down there at Miami. And.

[01:06:08] I caught. I don't know. I think. Three one fish while. You. And. Have you. That was what was more recent. Hey we make pretty good combination. I pull it off. So anyway. One thing led to another and then I ended up. Fishing within quite a bit. And he was pretty instrumental. Berkeley hired me. For a couple of years to run their fly fishing plant. They were making rods and. They bought the reels. Oh and they they made a filing for a while that was not bad. It was pretty darn good. But I only stayed with them for a. Couple of years. I was anxious to get off on my own which I've been ever since. Anyway. But that was kind of interesting the way I met Catholic. No it's a great story. That's for sure. Now you're for your year. Oh and Howard West. Does that name ring a bell. No it's not familiar to scientific gamers. OK. Yeah. Familiar with him. He was um he was the big cheese at a bar. I think it was 80. He 84 or 85. Scientific anglers decided to do the mastery system which was all the videos on fly fishing fly casting. And. By. And so they. They pick. Me. Lefty. Gray. David. The guy that died an early age from Deer Lodge. Who did that book on Qantas. La Fontaine. Yeah. La Fontaine. Did I say Woody. Oh and Mel Prager. Remember that. Yeah. Yeah. OK. There were five of us. Those five. And what. Howard West was the big cheese. And the way they were going to select who is going to do it. He came out and efficient. I think he fishes some I think lefty first. And then me. Then Whitlock. LAFONTAINE and then Krieger a week each. Say his bell with us and had us run and run him through our schools. And. I think he did. Me in July. I left in June. Anyway he finished up the rest of his character in the on game. And he said he'd call one of us and tell us. Who was gonna get to do it. And I thought he said a couple of weeks but. He didn't make the call I heard anything Sep game hadn't heard anything and finally at the end of September 1st of. October. He gave me a phone call. I. He liked to use.

[01:09:43] Pretty stirring language. He says. Obi he said that you're the only one that can really do the reach cast the curve cast and all the stack Stack mending. He says you're going to do our videos. We would like Gabby do. Four videos on like casting fly fishing. And then to fly Ty. So they had me tie it up from about a year trying to get all that I flew to. Minneapolis almost every weekend. So. That's how I got there. And I have to thank the man because. In my pocket. Man it allowed me to fish all over the world. I did afterwards. So. Anyway. That's great. Well anyway it was that but all I can take it back so why I so appreciate you taking the time to meet with me and discuss that with me today. It's a wonderful addition to our two oral history series and you are certainly a name that that we we definitely wanted and need to include to really tell the story. You've been a huge impact on the sport. You've heard of that guy. John feel that's not ringing a bell for me. Me neither and I have a good friend in San Jose. Who's one of the best black casters in the world and he does a lot of schools. Bob one race filled. And. He called me a few days ago and said he had this new king will rise like in for caching books because we're thinking about doing one ourselves and another one. He said I got this new casting book and somebody was barely holding it. And I never I never heard of this guy. And. So. I said. Send it to me I'll be glad to look at it. I got it yesterday at. Four o'clock. I'm a speed reader. I had it all read it six thirty and. It sucks. The smart phones iPods. What they tried to do. Feel all thick the pages on.

[01:12:01] How to make it up Sure sure. That's funny. And then and then at the back they. Put all of this extra crap in here on its end. I mean it just goes on forever. Oh here's a guy I know. And. Anyway I I read it. And return it after you leave it. It just nothing. No I I didn't. I didn't go for it. So anyway while excellent.