

vulev-alex-2017-06-30.mp4

Alex Vulev [00:00:10] Well. It's a personal thing. It may mean different things to different people so it's a personal matter. It's a personal waste of time so to speak. In a good way. So we there are a lot of stories to be told but they only will. Up something little to accumulate across the. Scale of things but the one we probably will never never go to the bottom of it.

Alex Vulev [00:00:42] We go. We fish. And love to fish. For me. Because we if we feel good about this and I agree with what my. Dad says that it makes us feel happy. It is done in beautiful places. Trout and Salmon beautiful fish. And the we fly fish in beautiful surroundings. Surroundings so to speak. It's nice having a man who who enjoys the outdoors. It's prospective fly fishing, methink.

Alex Vulev [00:01:33] It's fresh water beautiful places clean places. And you can find some solitude. I work very much for fish on my own I want. And sometimes. Fish and talk to kids. This is great for me.

Alex Vulev [00:02:00] Bulgaria in a small scale has everything that trout fishing has to offer. Yes but also we have probably 50 or trout streams. We have our alpine lakes. 1000 and 500 meters above We have spring creeks. Or in England Trout Streams to me spring creeks are a great place to fish.

Alex Vulev [00:02:31] It's very challenging. And. Rewarding. in Bulgaria the other thing is that. Not far from the days as the bulk of the Bulgarians. (unintelligible) It's probably well known in fact you've probably. Heard about this wrote about fly fishing these waters or nearby some 1000 years ago. So I suspect that Bulgarian. Trout streams were fished for only. Two Thousand years ago. But they're still Fished. And. Personally I was. Very much like the small stream fishing it is relaxing.

Alex Vulev [00:03:25] Bulgaria the native trout is the brown trout we have brook and rainbow trout they were introduced. Usually on rare occasions you have all of them in one stream. The brook is most aggressive. It is beautiful trout then the rainbow and the brown is most shy.

Alex Vulev [00:04:01] Brown trout. But after all it's the native species. It's harder to catch one than the rainbows or the brook It's a miracle that a Brown will take artificial. Fly. It's a miracle. I can do it on Bulgarian waters till the end of time.

Alex Vulev [00:04:30] Well the fishing in Bulgaria is not like mouse season in New Zealand or something like that. So it became a choice. Probably my first destination will be British Columbia. From my. From what. From. What I'm seeing from the Web. Probably some steelhead is my type of fishing. I think.

James Thull [00:05:03] Steelheads are amazing the searun rainbows are something to see. Yeah. Excellent.

Alex Vulev [00:05:09] Hopefully I have a chance.

Alex Vulev [00:05:17] Yes. And over the years. Is. It Since it is changing. Twenty four or five years ago it was a lake at a higher altitude. The fresh air then there was Economic crisis and People don't go out To fish often. So i Spent three or four days. Every week.

During the offseason. You cannot meet anyone. Not see a living soul there. On your own. I'm sleeping in my car on bank of the lake. Those were not uncommon. It's not like that today. Free travelling. The publicity It's exposed for its on tourism destination right now. And i no longer go So it's gone. It's not the same. And so 12 years ago I place this. Spot with the locals printed. Which I know it's uh. Some. In the States think that issue is something. Appreciate this. And. I can see why. That there is an American fly fisherman who wrote a book about fishing. It's a very good book.

Alex Vulev [00:06:57] Mike Wilson. Yeah. And I read the book it helped me to switch From the lake fishing to spring creek fishing. Different Approaches different tactics. So it help me to find the way to fish spring creeks. I think it is very good. I do not think there is a better book at the moment relating to spring creeks.

Alex Vulev [00:07:18] The funny thing is that I do not have parents or friends at the time that introduce me I found on my own. Because I was 11 and it was a summer and I wasn't in school And some pocket money from my grandparents. That they used to give me money. Couple of days I was a kid with some money in the pocket I have to do something with my spare time. I want to buy bike but my parents say no so I go to see people fishing and was thinking I can do that. So I bought some cheap tackle and I caught 7 whitefish and brought them to my grandmother and she was happy to cook them. My father then introduced me to a very serious fishing man and he taught me much about fishing. He told me about fly fishing and I was so interested I started tying flies. About a month later I bought my first fly rod it was Soviet made. I wanted a spinning rod but they did not have they were hard to find in those times. So I used as a spinning reel with flies that I tied.

Alex Vulev [00:11:41] This is a bit complicated. You have to find special reel and special fly line so after sometime I find the reel but fly lines were not available so I used a spinning reel and was tying flies

Alex Vulev [00:12:27] And you're starting to retrieve slowly And the fish is taking the artificial fly. This is sort of being my first for Fishing with flies but not the proper. I never used this rod with true fly line or something like that. It was When I was 25 for first time. When I buy another rod and fly line and start properly.

Alex Vulev [00:13:15] We need to appreciate these fish Basically They're very fragile And need a Special environment. And. What I See is that we have to respect the environment and the fish. I was doing 60 or more fishing Days each season. And certainly thinking that this pristine condition uncrowded will last forever. I was bringing the camera with me but I was thinking that this will last forever so I wasn't bothered to take the photos. Almost no photos.

Alex Vulev [00:14:02] From these days. Which was really pity because today you will not experience something like that. It's not. It's not the same. And. There's. Some other rivers and trout streams. The best one was Captured by dam. it was dam. 20 kilometers (unintelligible) in Bulgaria it was dammed which was Sorry. I feel very sorry. Well I understand. That. When I understood that. Today there are several dozens of trout streams In Bulgaria that were destroyed. Some sections were destroyed by making a small power plants which was really destroying the whole area. Fish. It's really. Awful. This is what scares me in Bulgaria but yeah the thinking you asked the last couple of seasons. I can feel that this change of the weather pattern. I see that. I see that the water levels are not sufficient throughout the season. Last season. Everything was. Perfect. Good fishing. Uh.

Alex Vulev [00:15:30] According to the prospects of the local water. From. August. After August for three months there was no rain. I never see this river so low. The water is gone the fish are gone. It is very sad. It was the same August I was in Slovenia. Which is 1000 KM from my place and I am driving a couple of times for a few days fishing there.

Alex Vulev [00:16:22] The place is very rich in Fresh water. Local river. They used to say that The fishermen go in Montana to fish for big trout and they come to Slovenia to catch one.

Alex Vulev [00:16:47] Year. So they sit here they meet every half an hour driving they sound some very nice water. Many species of trout there Marble trout. Hucho Hucho Salmon but the water was so low.

Alex Vulev [00:17:08] It was the worst fishing. So in it not only a local problem in Bulgaria. It wasn't the same. So do something with these predictions about what is to be done. In the history This was the prediction before the season to start with. For the first seven months I was not a problem. It's OK. It's raining the water levels are stable the fishing is good. What are they talking about? Listen it wasn't. In Slovenia they told me the same 2 months with no rain. Trout and salmon They need the right conditions to thrive. They're very fragile and. When there's not enough Water. It is not good for the fish.

Alex Vulev [00:18:27] I see it from websites and internet It is a destination Solvenia is a destination also

Alex Vulev [00:18:28] I see. I think. It's rightly so. But I know somebody who has been there. Will get there. So what I am hearing from them. It's a destination. And. It's not crowded. Montana also I have to go. In Europe it's a small area with alot of people in Montana it is a huge state with how many 2 million? 1 million? I have to go live there!

Alex Vulev [00:19:17] So I'm meeting people. Where I think Interesting people. They got me their favorite tactics. They let it fly tie and see what is working and you know what You know that helps a lot is to know the water. So you.

Alex Vulev [00:19:32] Gave to them. You give to them the knowledge with what is working where to find fish and even if the two of you receive some. Other. Things working. In other places. Their. Favorite flies I get the first time.

Alex Vulev [00:19:52] He was from France. He was a cashier of something for go fishing. And they were proud to develop some specific vise that were. Specific for the AGM. And. He gave. Me. A. Good. Memory Stick memory. All of their patterns. He told me.

Alex Vulev [00:20:21] You shouldn't put this on the Internet. This is for you only. It's a secret. And. I said no. Well. I have a confession to keeping secrets in fly fishing. And. So. He was a funny guy and a good fisherman good fly fisherman. There's Another guy from Dover. He was. He. He wasn't tying flies He was buying. The place and he showed me some flies that I believe. They were for him. From another French guy but his were meant to to be fished for getting salmon in Norway. But. He wanted to Pick up some fish with his flies. I told him try this see if it works. It's meeting people. This is good.

Alex Vulev [00:21:24] Well probably the best thing is. If he or she that they get to know someone who is doing These things. Like fishing or fly fishing with them. And. To see to be

serious or not and whether they like it or not. If if this. Is. Their kind of thing. I mean it is not for everyone. I think that no matter what. We do. We may educate people we may promote. The sport. Of fly fishing. But. It's not for everyone.

Alex Vulev [00:22:12] Some may like it. Some will not. And I Think when when they see that this is the type of thing To do. They shouldn't I will repeat this from G.M Skues never to see the fly fishing authority as a kind of god of fishing.

Alex Vulev [00:22:43] And to check everything yourself. If possible with small steps. Yeah. I think. This is. This is a. Good thing to do. Not to repeat the Mistakes. These are great fishermen that fly fishermen from the past. We all do mistakes. [BULGARIAN]

Alex Vulev [00:24:04] The most important thing is to practice. As much as possibl. Probably I have to ask you the same thing. You're doing a great project with Montana State University and my efforts my personal scale. My fly fishing experience is so because I collected some Photos from The past seasons. Stories used to be for six year editor. The bulgarian fishing magazine. The Bulgarian Angler

Alex Vulev [00:24:49] And I wrote some articles in. Fly fishing with it so I collect those articles and put them into website and put some photos from recent trip So with some text. This is to keep the memory alive. I saw some waters disappearing. Some Changes. During these years but not in a good way. So. I decided that it's time to get. People. Being. Photographed and remembered. Also. It's a personal.

Alex Vulev [00:25:31] Keep their resources. This is the most important. There will be fish there and there be someone. Wanting to catch the fish with artificial fly which is. A miracle.