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Shane Wootan [00:00:11] Well I'm going to go to something that I. Just to walk around. Just for peace. Yeah. I was just like that. I was we were fly fishing in Mexico in La Paz Mexico and we're on a boat with a boat captain who is you know kind of a fly fishing was not really what we should be doing. Maybe we should do fishing gear fish gear and catching bigger fish for having a better opportunity. And so we got to talking about it and he knew you know he was open to the idea of fly fishing. And so it's kind of my fishing buddy and I explained to him why what it was to us and went back to the first fish that you ever caught. We were talking about you know the first fish in that experience. Well with a fly rod it's like catching that first fish every single time. And that's that's the big lure. You know just having that fish on the end of that fly rod light tackle and being able to feel that fish and what's going on and the movement and just fly fishing is one of those things where you can constantly learn adapt and try new things and whether you're tying or you're fishing you're always learning. It's it's a constant learning process and that's what what I love about fly fishing is always having that challenge the experiences and learning that comes with it.

Shane Wootan [00:02:07] There definitely is. That's just my. I worked with some youth and I try to bring new people into the sport that I worked with one company that sells fly tying material with another that their. Sells. Fly fishing gear and so we get to spend a lot of time with the youth. And there's definitely a difference. You watch somebody tie a fly and then take them we go from them tying and then them catching a fish on that fly. It. Definitely. Has. Yes. You know it's something you've done and something it just completes the process I think. And. Just. Not only myself but other people I just see that that kind of. Cements that their interest in the sport. I definitely think that the diversity is important. I mean. We all like to catch different fish and. The Fishing is whether it's going out by yourself. Kind of a spiritual experience for you or going out with your buddies and just being around them. I feel like that you know we all look for those kind of things. But. Diversification is important because. I mean I just feel like. It's totally attainable for anybody. Today you can fish in any you can fly fish in any major city. As long as you're not particular. You don't want to catch a trout. I mean you can. There's so many things you can do with a fly rod. There's so much. Opportunity out there that I just feel like diversifying. Women coming into the sport and and I just think you know how much I enjoy it and watching other people enjoy it. Again I'll talk about fishing in Mexico. Where. These guys have been raised and if you catch a fish and you know that's dinner that's food and. Even there. There is this mentality that hey we don't need to kill everything we catch. If we put these fish back. If we put some of these fish back or if we just kind of monitor what's going on we have a sustainable resource and we're going to have more people coming in. There's more tourism there's more of us going to enjoy these same fish. And so. I think that that is a growing sentiment in the world today. But I feel like diversity plays into us into our conservation efforts and into our just enjoyment of the sport. What with both the brands I represent or work with are international brands. And. You know I just don't feel like that's. That's it's really fun to talk to people and different experiences different points of view. So. The one that scares me the most is just. Public access and being able to. Just for. For. The for everybody to be able to enjoy it. We all have our secret fishing holes and we know that we don't want to share and we don't. But in order for our sport to grow. We have to share. And Being in this industry it's hard because I want to have my secret spot and I want to have privacy. You know I want to go and be out there and have that solitude. But. I know that. If. I want to make a living or if I want. To do this this industry To be well and to grow. We have to we have to share. We have to take care of. Trout and salmon. I just I just see big. You know obviously the big ones now are the sea run. Steelhead and

salmon. The limitations that we have about them being able to migrate and spawn. I think a lot of it is water quality and. You know. The climate change and what's going on. And. The biggest thing I think we can do is just. Respect nature and try to try to. Make as a little footprint on as we can because. The only way that we're going to nature or take care of itself if we don't. If we don't interfere. But. We are constantly interfering and we just need to figure out how we can minimize the impact that we have on these fish and. They'll take care of themselves. If we can do that. So.

Shane Wootan [00:07:41] The big change in the eyes I've seen. In my local fisheries are the introduction of new fish. Invasive or. Well. For instance here locally bass bass are in the rivers and yeah they're in their sport fish. They're fish that people are fishing for. But they definitely impact the trout's. Environment and the population for sure. And. I see that as a problem. The what the water temperatures you know that's constantly changing that's an issue. And I don't know that we have a lot of control over that. But. I think that it's important for us to be aware and to give those fish the opportunity and you know. Make it possible for them to migrate up some of these smaller streams and stuff and to be able to look to winter. Winter to be able to survive this period where you know we have this warming and Hopefully natural put put it right. You know someday. We can respect the fish and help them. Enjoy them but. Help them. And I think that that's a huge that's what we can do for the environment today. Oh definitely. I mean. I've actually been able to fish. In different countries for different species and. You know it doesn't matter if it's a brook trout. When you go to the environment where these fish live and you catch you catch them every one of them is a trophy it doesn't matter how big they are. And that's about. It's about the memory. It's about the experience and that's that's the key I think is it's about the experience of where. That's what fly fishing is all about is the experience and the memories that you have and who you share that with whether it's you internally or you and your friends or you know just sharing it with your family Doesn't matter.

Shane Wootan [00:10:19] Definitely. I mean you walk into an airport and if you have a fly you have a rod tube on your back or in your hand or whatever. Chances are somebody is going to pull you aside and ask you where you're going. Ask you about the gear you're using something you know or how you did it. And it opens doors. I mean you're able to. Talk with people to share experiences. To experience what they know to listen to their experiences and. A lot of times its advice is a lot of times. You just never know what's going to come about. I mean new friendships. And I think that. Opens a lot of doors on social media. Now. You know somebody or just. They just look at your profile and you caught this fish and they think that's spectacular you know. And pretty soon. You just you have a different dialogue and you find. Friends that have the same friends you've had for a long time that have interests there. And so it's just it's kind of interesting because there is a different dialogue in it. Does. I feel like it brings. Yeah that brings us all closer together as anglers in our own community. I come. Right here to my home water because there's something about being on your home water that is. That is key. I mean you're intimate with their surroundings you're intimate with the fish a lot of times you know that which fly to use and you which fish you're going to catch and you may catch that fish once a week for a whole summer or you know or the next year. And and that is a special experience in that you know. That you caught that fish probably some other people caught that same fish but you've all. You know you've got to you've got to. Have that tug and you've got to. Maybe you took a picture maybe you didn't. You had a relationship with that fish you turned it loose and come back and visit him later I think that's pretty cool. I think that's really really. Great experience. So. I'm the distributor for. I've worked with the distribution of Luke Tackle. In the US. For a few years and. Been able to meet some incredible people. Been able to. Experience some incredible things and. I have an engineering background so I'm

kind of. A geek when it comes to the technical side of things. And. Yeah. I just. It's been fun to be part of that and to see. I don't want. To work in the industry but also. First and foremost I'm an angler. I'm a fisherman. And that's that's what I buy I'm in this industry and what I love about. I think that we do in that. It's our livelihood and you know we may we may be focused on the gear and what we're selling but we want. Fly fishing to be sustainable. We want fly fishing to diversify because it's a bigger part. There's more money coming in there's more there's more opportunity. And. With. What if we do that responsibly then we bring the right people to the sport to help us conserve. The resources that helped. We help educate about how important it is that. You know. You don't drop the trash here and you know you pick up your mono and you know its just important for us to share those kind of things. Because. It just. I don't know. It just builds the community.

Shane Wootan [00:14:52] The. Snake River is, I've lived on the Snake River my entire life. I was raised in agriculture I still work in agriculture as well. And one of my businesses. And the water. Water brings this desert to life and it makes things happen. And to see Fish in and you know what it does. Fishing and angling and it just brings the whole I don't know the whole is just more intimate with the whole water relationship and what's going on. It's just the environment and so it gives me a greater respect of What we're always focused on agriculture feeding the world. But the tourism and the opportunities it affords us have. World class fishing in our backyard. Through the quality and the abundance of the water. Which also produces. Spectacular fishing and those things go hand in hand for me because I'm just tied to that. And I'd love to see. It and that's why I love this. Just. The whole looking at the whole environment and how it is and that's why I love to fish here. I love to be just on the water and see what's going on and. You. Know. Just the environment is so. My favorite is whatever we're fishing for at the time.

James Thull [00:16:42] I've got that answer before.

Shane Wootan [00:16:43] The and because I don't know if it's something about. Being on a little tiny stream. Where you know that if you catch a 10 inch brook trout you just caught. You know the biggest fish that you're going to catch there and every fish is a trophy. When you're when you when you're doing that and. When. I'm when I'm fishing here locally I love to catch brown trout because they're huge. I love to catch cut throat because it's there. You're catching a fish in its native environment. Yeah and I love to catch a rainbow trout because you get an aerial display and you get to have a lot of fun. And so that each of them have their own nuances that make them just incredible. And. Just make them different. And I just feel like you have to respect those nuances and those differences in the fish because each one of them's an individual.

Shane Wootan [00:17:59] I feel like my favorite fishing partners are my children. I love to fish with my children. But. People that travel. The biggest thing is just. People that are like minded or that enjoy the same things that I do or not. I like them to be different than me but to. Fishing as part of. Their life and it's part of it. It's it's what it's about. It's about focusing on that experience and. You know it's just you and the fish and Mother Nature. So.

James Thull [00:18:41] That's great. So as much about being out there as anything.

Shane Wootan [00:18:44] So yeah. It's all about the experience for me. Doesn't matter if you catch a fish or not. You got to see. You probably got to see fish in their native environment. And. You know you've got to see Mother Nature and and in the process. So. Well. I don't feel like any of us as individuals can have the impact that we need to. And so

as a community we have to. As a community of individuals we have to do all we can. Just. To respect. The environment and the fish and. What's going on around us. And. I feel like it's our responsibilities as anglers who enjoy it. We have to give back and we have to. We just need to learn and we need to understand the impact that we have on the environment because. Being out there. You can look at it as a negative or positive either way. I mean we're we're having an impact. And. If we can do everything we can to make that a positive impact then. We're doing all we can. I think. Yeah I feel like each of us needs to figure out. If our personal goals align with the goals of those organizations and. You know it's it's not always about a monetary donation. I think that volunteering time and that goes much much further and that shows a true commitment to the sport. And so. I feel like. We need to align ourselves with organizations that have the same goals we as individuals do because that's how we're going to as a community that's how we're going to have an impact. As individuals we can. We can do what we can for our local environment and we probably should. But to have the impact that we need and the political voice we need we need to have. We need to be affiliated with some organizations. Because. Fly fishing. For me is it. It's so it's a personal hobby it's a personal. There's something about reading. A book and reading about someone else's experience or advice or. Instructions or. Whatever it is that. It. It's like you know learning for yourself. And. I feel like reading. You can read the same book twice and get different things. You know each time you read that book you get a whole different bits of information may not even be. What the author intended you to get to glean from that book but. You glean different bits of information that help you. And. Something about the printed word just makes things click. Again. I have an engineering background and so when I was learning to cast the fly rod my buddy would tell me all kinds just all you need to do this and you need to do that. I read a study about the physics of fly casting and. As I'm reading the the physics of fly casting things start to click in my head and then what he was saying made sense to me. And. I feel like that's a big part of. The sport. And. When it comes to conservation it's important for us to see what others have had, versus what we have today or what we could have. If we take care of the environment and what's around us.

Shane Wootan [00:23:26] It all depends. I like I watch videos. I will read. It's just. I can't really pick out a favorite because. Each one of them has a voice. And. I may pick something up and it may start to read it and be bored to death today. And then. In a week I could pick the same book up and just eat it up and just learn a bunch from it. And so it's hard for me to single out and say these are my favorite because. Again diversity and being able to. Keep being able to experience so much more through the written word than than you're able to because of. Time and Money restraints you know. And I think that that's. My favorite thing to do is to learn about an environment and what to do and where to go what to do and to learn about. I'm not only angling but what else you can do. Not at that place and then you go there and you have a deep respect you understand what's already happened there and what what you're there to fish for and how you're supposed to fish for it. And so. I just feel like there's so many layers to publication and documentation that it's key to this industry.