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Satoshi Yamamoto [00:00:10] Yeah. Yeah. Yes. I have a lot of fishing stories and then again, to me all of those like a memories or memorable, you know, trout experience, always, always seemed to come with a kind of background stories or like almost like a coincidence, you know to get there. And it's we can talk about that on the you know when we look back on that day. You know even 10 minutes before something. And then it's almost like you know sit up sometimes. And it's like oh sometimes even surreal to me. And then, one of those experience is like a, you know before I come back to Montana and then living in- moving into Livingston, I lived in Washington state. And then I was fishing for native trout over there, Westslope Cutthroat because you know big streamer. It just you know would be great if I were to catch a 16 inch, I don't know, long or something. And then somehow, that day tend to kind of be really slow. I might've caught like a two, you know really small cutthroat on the big streamer. Then just all of sudden I just a uh, um, I thought I snagged something, maybe in the rock or a log or something underneath. And some- and then suddenly that that something start to swim upstream. And then there is no brown trout over there. It wasn't the season for steelhead. That happened, that happened to be the King salmon the Chinook, you know. I was fishing with a six weight rod. I was, my legs were like uh, shaking like Elvis Presley. And then I... somehow I hel- I held my knob and breath and then I gently beached him to the side. And then it was really fresh run king salmon from yeah (unintelligible), you know, Portland or you know, Columbia river. And then where I was fishing would be probably over 300 miles away, you know river mile. So I was really, um, just so, so I was so moved and impressed, you know, that fish, one big fish, you know, swam up all the fish ladder, with dams and then... I would only imagine he was momentarily, he was dominating that river I think. That's why I didn't catch any, you know cutthroat there. So, and then, yes I caught that fish, snapped som- snapped some pictures and released him and then I gave away to my life cycle. That, that was pretty much the last fish I caught in Washington state. With that I kind of felt I fished a lot, pretty much enough in Washington. And then [Unintelligible] made me come back to Montana, actually. And yeah, so that's that's that's that would be the most, yeah, yeah memorable memory. Yeah, to- for fishing story. Yeah, what what what fly fishing means to me. Yes.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:03:59] Yes. I think it's, it's important to preserve, our, yes our native species. And then our, our wild species. And of course the two, for your angling and recreational purposes. I think it's really important you know for the managing along with, you know after the introduction of things. Yeah. And then as an angler yes, I think best thing we can do is a catch and release. And then also promote and act to fishermen.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:04:42] Yeah. I believe Montana and Yellowstone National Park provide perhaps world's largest publicly accessible waters I believe and then, yeah, state and federal agencies are doing good management. Though, there have been some you know questionable sometimes even funny regulations every now and then. But although I think, I believe they're doing good job and then uh, as a guide, fishing guide and an angler, we are part of the management. So like I said to keep those waters public and then um, filled with native species and enjoyable to to to us and then all the way to the future generations. So yeah that's why yes this can buy guide service is based on those attractions. So yeah yeah. Again in that we are Montana not Yellowstone National Park management are doing good jobs, so that's why, yes. That's why I'm getting, yes business and making a living, so.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:06:07] Oh, yeah, Yellowstone, Yellowstone National, If we- when we fish Yellowstone park, well some of us we definitely my destination is the northeast

corner of the Yellowstone park such as a Lamar, Soda Butte, Slough creek and then when chance is- time is right I go fish the Yellowstone river itself beyond the lake. I don't mind catching whitefish either, so. Yeah Grayling is every now and then hard to catch. We know they're there, so... Would be great if we see more, kinda, Westslope Cutthroat in this side of, this side of the park, you know West side of the park. Yeah, that's what I think.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:07:00] Yes. Yes. Put it simply people keep eati- you know keeping fish, but eating fish out of the river, we could be out of business. I'm often asked you know given no fishing folks especially you know do you eat them. I just you know. I always gonna say you know kinda half joke half serious, "hey, we could be out of business, I always put them back" and then when I, when I eat something, some protein, I either have a steak or some legally harvested salmon from Alaska or something. So, yeah, that's what I usually tell people, yeah, so.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:07:51] Yes I like so many so many so many favorite, favorite waters, wha- favorite water bodies it could be a, and then uh, good memory from each, each water. But if I really have to pick one, choose one it would be DePuy's Spring Creek in Livingston because speci- more, more specifically, it could be late June you know pale morning dun hatch and then even more specifically probably in the evening, 6:00, 7:00 in the evening at that section called Betty's Riffle that's where the pale morning dun spinners. Those that are hatching in the morning they come back to the water and mate and fall on the creek. In the evening almost all the way to the dark on a good day the trout gorging on the falling spinner and in the darkness the flat water was just like almost looking like a boiling. It could happen, you know it may not happen every day. When the weather's right, timing is right. That's to me the most to me, yeah, most favorite scene. And then typically I'm guiding people. And then but I'm really just just happy to be there. Yeah I don't I just I don't really have to, you know I myself don't have to throw fly to them, yeah I'm just happy especially when clients catch a fish. Then also regarding DePuy, DePuy Spring Creek is a one that I really actually start kind of developed and trained myself as a fishing guide. And then what I learned there, yeah that, yeah that's really, yeah where I get started. Yeah, so that's that, yeah that's the other reason, so. Other important reason. That I really like DePuy Spring Creek.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:10:14] I think as a guide I really like to say you know to me like fishing is like like any other outdoors activities you know fishing is all about you know fun, you know, enjoy outdoors. And then we on the river to enjoy enjoy the day. Of course the catching fish is important. But then again, you know, look at the surroundings, look at the mountains, you know, look at the trees look at the birds, look at the wildlife. Then, um... and then even though you know relationships with family and friends that you go fishing together and those, all of the factors are really important to me. And oftentimes that I think especially fly fishing industry or fly fishing community experienced you know anglers, elder people typically tends to enforce you know kind of a one way street, you know, they tend to enforce you know their technique, their theory or you know their own nuances to the angler and the newer folks that oftentimes that I think are intimidating, you know. So that seems to oftentimes you know... yeah. Some people just don't- you know, hey fly fishing is difficult, you know, fishing is just yeah that's that's that's that's my that's my opinion as a guide. And then also nowadays some gears are- uh, super expensive maybe hundred each. So somehow... I ki- I hope that there are some of those brands companies should produce some more like reasonable, you know, yet functional products. And then to, to, to, yes, promote, to appeal to yes younger newer generation including of course women and minorities, yeah.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:12:38] It is simple. Yes it's more the somewhat but the... Setup may be simple but I think technique or like kinda understanding or knowledge is I don't think it's much different from actually fly fishing. And then, if you are maybe asking about fishing in Japan- I think per- perhaps you have learned already 'cuz see- Tenkara why the Japanese fishermen use that uh, Tenkara is because typically those- that technique was- that style of fishing was developed in you know steep, highly timbered mountain streams in Japan and they have no back cast. They have no room to back cast, so they- that's why, you know, fly fishing we need the most of the time, we need a decent back cast and come, you know, come forward. But that's why it's kind of, I think I can say ingenious, you know, technique developed in Japan, yeah. Among just uh, basically, you know, yeah fishermen who sold those na- you know, native trout, you know, catch on the... sol- caught and sold for market. Yeah, I think that's a technique but um, simplicity? Yes, to make- yeah, so for everyone can understand, yeah. Everyone can, [unintelligible] enforcing, you know uh theories or... It's all about enjoy the day. Yes. Again catching a fish is important, but uh, yeah, to come, yeah.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:14:31] Fly fishing and fly tying have long and colorful history. And every so often we learn from our ancestors, you know, and then oftentimes we need to interpret what they meant or how they did it and then to do that we first, you know, need to read and understand you know the era they lived, or tools or equipment they use. And then, and then this is especially true with- with [unintelligible] Atlantic salmon flies, which you may ask later. And then uh, and then yes so correction, like here at MSU user I view a very unique and important for current anglers like us and then even the fishing historians and then not to mention for their future generation, yes.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:15:34] I may not be able to answer you know, exactly, like if we have lost anything. Uh yeah, I always try to say, would like to say, at least, you know, think positive, you know. It takes things, you know, things change then, you know even us, including us. So you know people say 30 years ago, "oh, fish are bigger, we caught more fish", but at the same time in a lot of the population each population on each country was- so, much smaller than now, so, you know, yeah. So a crowding issue or size of the fish, it's it's it's it's it's hard to compare from the past, I think.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:16:28] And then even a day by day, you know, right now day to day or each day is different. So you know one weekday even one week typically Saturday, Sunday may be busy because people with a job they take off, you know, take a weekend off and go fishing. But then again next weekends I mean no, not many people are fishing at a stretch. And like if I go fishing on Tuesday, Wednesday there might be, you know, lots of fishermen there on that day, there happen to be, so it's it's it's hard to compare, yeah it just, yeah, I think, yeah. If you keep a good memory a good journal for you know years before and a compare it, that's a good idea. But then again kind of comparing and then the waiting and the hanging onto the, you know, past the good old days and what they call, that's that's not progressing in my opinion. What is good old days, you know, it's a good question, yeah.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:17:42] Mostly there are more fishermen there. Much more fishermen in Japan. And then I can tell you right, right off I'm sure you you you, you're also interesting. You might have already but the Montana and Japan are just about same land size but then in Montana I guess Montana just reached about a million people a couple of years ago, several years ago. But when I came here like year 2000 like it was like 800,000 people recorded. Then in Japan, the same land size, there are 120 million people there. And then like a tenkara story, Japanese people like to fish and catch and eat. So, it's

simply there's so many people fishing there. And then yes there are bait fishing or reel fishing, bass fishing and the fly fishing and then even among fly fishing, some people want to hike up the, you know, up to the mountain stream with a super light rod or like some people you know try to fish a big river. So and then those, yeah media. Still books, internet. It's so it's so popular and then, I just think it's it's- and then all those lots of information lots of people in such a small land, so everybody go fishing there and then I have had, you know several fishing clients from Japan, they say you know if somebody walk, you know fish and walk ahead of me I don't catch anything. I mean I can't, I can't really speak on this, you know I read on the exact visit the place they fish or you know their skill or condition. I can't really speak of, but, but most people just say that. So yeah people who have fished in the, yeah Japan, so yeah. Yes fishing is, fishing is popular, that's a great thing. Though the crowding thing is kinda um, yeah, lots of people fish, crowding or maybe fishing pressure things that the issue maybe. Yeah it's just kind of their thing. Yeah.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:20:15] I, I um, I grew up in uh, I grew up in a basically a country, countryside of Japan. I'm from farming families so it's kind of natural to me. Just, yeah, going going fishing is part of the just outdoors activities as a kid. And then I have a brother who is four years older than me. And then yes, we went, you know fishing together oftentimes. Maybe we could relate to like A River Runs Through It but then also I could also relate my brother to that kind of buddies up I mention about you know enforcing the people reinforcing and pushing their way (unintelligible). He could have been like that, you know. And yes with the, and then he could have been you know superior to me. He could have caught more fish, bigger fish but eventually I caught up. He started fly fishing a year and then a couple of years ahead of me and then another kind of passion, really kind of important to me, for me to getti- getting into fly fishing was when I was in the college in Tokyo, Japan. At the time like I believe it was, what junior year, kinda we start to have more time, you know, my friends and I started have more, more time among the classes so we start to kind of go uh, bass fishing with lures. Then, in the vacant lot near my apartment I was, you know the big reel. You know kind of goes this way you know bait catch, I was practicing and then there's just a gentleman in the, you know, nearby was walking his dog spoke to me and he said at the time, you know he just, he just gave me lures, he said he, he said he fly fishes now, he doesn't do lure fishing anymore, then he just gave me his lure at the time. So actually it's less than a year later just as I was turning into senior year in again, college in Tokyo, I met him again. Yeah just in the area he was walking dog, maybe I was walking to grocery store or something. And then, yeah, I got into talk with him and then that was about time for me to, yeah, start fly fishing and he was actually very helpful over the years I say I like my brother. He was, he was um, he was really kind, you know. He was a (unintelligible) actually and then he he even kindly took me to fishing and showing me how to tie flies. And then yeah, he's a uh, he's one of those who doesn't, you know false you know, you know their theories or techniques or you know their basically for you know younger or newer people. So it's it's yeah. He was he was. He was. He was very important person for me too. Yeah. For me to get into fishing. So.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:24:01] Changes. Changes. It's about the number way that changes that I mentioned you know about we change. One of those.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:24:10] It's about changes such as a like of Mother Nature. Then I think in first it's the mother nature change. Big changes in Mother Nature that oftentimes that cause panic among us. I think I can say it's like a year in 2016. You know.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:24:38] PKD occurrence Whitefish die off in the Yellowstone River followed by your Yellowstone River closure. To me I think it's a really a panic I think caused by a panic of Mother Nature I think that's wild.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:24:55] And then I don't know if we're going into the debate about that decision et cetera. But it is really hard for us for the fishermen for sure. And then, but on the contrary this year we this winter through 2016 2017 we had a really cold winter.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:25:15] In Montana-Wyoming so now a lot of people are afraid of high water now. On the contrary to 2015-16 and then and now I know for example on the Bighorn river that people were there including fishing guides or Landowners that on the Bighorn River only but what the Bureau Bureau of Reclamation and what they're doing. Yeah I know they were basically complaining of high water. So then the same kind of flooding could happen around the Yellowstone River or something, you know? So that's. Yes.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:26:02] Mother Nature panic maybe a kind of practical threat I guess to me. And then the issue is any anybody else in Montana I think I guess a kind of privatizing riverfront property would be an issue. Yeah. So that's yeah. OK. Like I mentioned before you know it. Enjoy fishing. Enjoy the great outdoors in Montana or Yellowstone Park. Yes those fish trout or any other species we catch. Mother Nature. Hopefully, eventually history you know getting interesting interest in the history. And then. I think yeah oftentimes those younger when newer people you know fishing, they want to get more fish fast, and then eventually they want to get a bigger fish. And then that's great. And then you know, that means they are craving more knowledge. You know, what I think more flies better flies you know. And it also helps to find you know good friends. Mentors you know to go to go fishing together you know and then discuss discuss you know much more about fishing.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:28:00] Uh, I'd say uh, okay, let me... Yes. Interacting with people. That's that's mostly enjoyable. That's the benefit of being a guide.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:28:03] And then I get get those people you know fishing clients into fish and then enjoy the same same weather hopefully it's good sometimes it's bad. But we share the same weather and then we you know we have lunch together. That's that's really uh really important to me and then challenging part is number one factor is every client or every water body.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:28:38] Every water body we fish or I guide, well even every guide trip, you know each day everything is there can be can be different. So for example you know each client has a different objective different motivation or a different skill set.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:29:02] So to to understand those each, you got you understand that you know each. Each difference you will.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:29:20] Understand each client of this skill. What I got. What's going on today on this river. Well even at this time of the day is that really challenging. Yes as much as it's enjoyable. It's challenging. Yes. Yes.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:29:42] Atlantic Salmon fly perhaps you know history you know as long as trout flies then it's golden age has lasted only just a just a short period from late

19th century to early 20th century and then this is indeed the history that is of preserving for future generations then.

Satoshi Yamamoto [00:30:13] Especially that what I mentioned that the golden age those flies during the golden age fly patterns dropped and published in that Golden Age is tied with colorful and exotic feathers. Those flies are definitely the ultimate skill of fly tying. And then it also it is indeed my personal journey.