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SPEAKERS

Dave S, unknown speaker..., Ryan

-  **Ryan** 00:00
Yeah, so it's just like my lens, I just use your standard 18 mil lens and then the way I set everything up. That's what like when I take it like what I'm trying to show there is like, the ribbing on the body, you know what I mean? And then the head shot to the head and then the tag I try to show the tag, you know, so that's why I do multiple shots so you can see different segments of the bug. That was Ryan Taylor describing his Instagram strategy for posting amazing content. We're heading back to the Grand today on the wet fly swing fly fishing show.
-  **unknown speaker...** 00:32
Welcome to the wet fly swing fly fishing show where you discover tips, tricks and tools from the leading names in fly fishing. Today, we'll help you on your fly fishing journey with classic stories covering steelhead fishing, fly tying and much more.
-  **Dave S** 00:47
Hey, how's it going, everyone thanks for stopping by the fly fishing show today. Ryan Taylor, the salmon fly junkie on Instagram shares his story and some tips on tying Atlantic salmon flies. We hear some of the best tips Improving your flight time what his plans are for long term, steelhead fishing, and some influencers that are out there that he's connecting with. I'd be great if you had a chance if you could share this episode with one

other person that you think would love it. That would be very, very amazing. So So without further ado, here's Ryan Taylor. How's it going, Ryan?



Ryan 01:25

Good. How are you? Thanks for having me.



Dave S 01:26

Yeah, yeah, thanks for helping to put this together here this morning. We're going to talk dig into some Atlantic salmon fly and you know, steelhead, and some of the stuff you have going on Instagram, you have a bunch of killer patterns there. And before we jump into that, you just talked about how you got into fly fishing to start everything off.



Ryan 01:47

Yeah, my background comes from trout fishing. Actually, as a young kid, I used to go camping and a local campground and there is a big river that was well known for fly fishing at the time, and I used to see everyone out there. So that's kind of what got Started into fly fishing. And then from there progressed I went on a trip back to my wife's hometown in Newfoundland and got addicted to chasing migratory fish. And then everything else was like pretty much game over from there, just the thrill of, of the adventure of getting to the river and then the ATV ride and then the hike to the run is just so memorable. You know, nothing can explain what you see.



Dave S 02:25

Yeah. And that was Atlantic salmon and Newfoundland.



Ryan 02:29

Yes, it was. Yeah.



Dave S 02:30

Well, is that Do you still chase the Atlantic salmon occasionally or more steelhead? Or what do you what are you doing?



Ryan 02:37

Well, they've changed all their eggs out there. So I do believe that it's just for locals now. But I haven't been back there for two years. Oh, gotcha. Um, so now it's just yeah, resident Great Lake, steelhead and brown trout that I chase now here in Ontario.



Dave S 02:54

Yeah. What the? Did you Did you have a chance to get into hook into some fish on it. Atlantic salmon when you're over there.



Ryan 03:02

Oh, yeah, I rose a whole bunch on dry flies like skidding bombers and stuff and it's in, you know, my first time out there it's quite the experience fishing sub surface to surface and remembering when to set the hook you know all the all the boys from the East Coast could sit on the bank and laugh at me because they'd say set the hook and I'm like, What are you talking about? Fish doesn't have the fly. And he did have the fly, you know? And yeah, I didn't know. And I missed a whole bunch, you know? So that's what you know, I still have yet to get my land my Atlantic salmon on the East Coast if that will ever happen one day, hopefully. You know, yeah, it's all top water. You're not allowed to run like sink tips or anything like that. It's all dry line stuff. So it's quite the challenge.



Dave S 03:46

Gotcha. Where did you so where are you at right now? Where do you live now and where did you Where was that place? You started trout fishing.



Ryan 03:53

I was the Grand River, the upper Grande River. So I'm about 40 minutes from Toronto. So I'm probably The furthest river is like a two hour drive for me. So yeah, that's I used to do two three trips up to the Grand River as a kid camping and that's that's what got me into truck fishing. And then yeah, yeah, the rest was history from there.



Dave S 04:15

That's right. Yeah. And I had a static Peter Charles was on a while back. He talked about the grant a little bit and so that's now that's pretty much your home River. The grant.



Ryan 04:26

Yeah, yeah, I spend like come steelhead season I'm on there till it closes, essentially. And I fish it. Fish it pretty exclusively and just there's something about the Lake Erie tributary fish, fish that is second to last you know, like it's, it's, it's unbelievable. Those fish that come out of there.



Dave S 04:45

Hmm, that's sweet. How did the with the Instagram and all the you got a ton of beautiful Atlantic salmon flies and steelhead flies and things there. How did that how did that all start?



Ryan 04:55

Uh, well, it goes back to going back. East Atlantic salmon fishing. I had up family friend come over and show me how to tie you know, the classic blue charm and the Cabal. So I think it's called and a bunch of other patterns. And then from there, I kind of just started researching and reading about the history of salmon flies and all the different patterns. And then I really fell in love with like, you know, the built wings in the in the mixed wings and progressed from there because like hair wings kind of get monotonous after a while and you call it kind of like a challenge. So I've now like, I'm trying to go back even further and make my flies like vintage, like the old plates that you see in the books. You know, I'm trying to replicate that, like, make that look in my patterns.



Dave S 05:42

That's cool. What do you think is the difference between him and do you know a little bit of that history of the you know, how far back I don't know, maybe you could talk a little about that some of the history there and then what the differences between the old ones and maybe what you see in more recent history. Gotcha. What did you learn? What have you learned mostly from those guys? What do you think are the few few big things you've learned from



Ryan 06:51

just winging technique, you know, like kelston does like a weird like individual fiber built of wings. So you take from what I understand in the book is you take like, one fiber from the feather, and you build the wing individually, individual fiber by fiber by fiber. You know, in their mix, that's his style of mixed wing. That's what he, how he does it the way I interpret it

in the book, and then price tyrants book is kind of the same way, but I feel like he's just like clumps of different fibers from what I understand. So like, all these different guys had different techniques. You know, blacker I think, was the other one, he was the same, he would tie left and right so nothing would marry together in his patterns, you know, so you get way more movement in the water when the flies swinging, you know, that's the thing like a married wing flies just like a board in the water, like there's zero movement to it unless you brush all those fibers out, but they're always going to marry back together, right? So if you build a wing, that's individual strands left's or rights or rights and rights, and they'll marry together but they'll always be that movement because it's not in the fibers. Each each individual fiber has like a j on it that holds that feather together, right? So if you manipulate that feather not to stick together, then you'll get more movement. Yeah, yeah, I have. There's some beautiful patterns you can find on the internet.



Dave S 08:34

Oh, cool from that, actually. Yeah. Yeah. I've been. I've been digging it a little bit to that group. I've had Joseph Rosana was on he talked about some of the guys you know that were involved in that and I've got Dave McNeese is going to be on soon he's, he's gonna be talking about some of the he's kind of a you know, I guess. Let's see he's writing a book, I guess on siglas. Oh, is is coming up some. Yeah, I'm continuing diggin so you're kind of more I guess more on the newer side right? I think you're a little bit younger than some of those guys. I mean what? What is it for you that gets you on the old stuff? Why not just tie on a little skimp sparse little wet fly and go with that?



Ryan 09:14

I don't know. It's just the the attraction of it. I guess. Like I said, the fly catches the fishermen not the fish. Right. So I'm kind of an old soul, I guess you could say. I like the challenge of tying I do a lot of tying in hand to challenge myself even further. And take because if I if I don't do that I could tie if I if I was to tie a fly in a vise every night I wouldn't have enough boxes. I already have that problem now, right? So it's Yeah, I don't know. There's just something about the classic pattern that just draws me in that I just can't get away from. I've tried to you know, tie the traditional intruders and all those batter turns but so the thing, just get takes me back to the traditional stuff, you know,



Dave S 10:00

Yeah, what is what is the so the tying in hand? Can you talk a little bit about that? Well, I know there's a couple people out there that are doing it. So you mainly do it because it's

just a little bit bigger challenge.



Ryan 10:12

Yeah, I do it because it's a bigger challenge. It's like two three sittings to tie one fly instead of like one sitting, you know what I mean, for efficient fly, I tie a little bit and I take a break and pick it up the next day. I don't I don't try to do it all in one day. And how I got into that is because whiskey gin or gin. He fished local rivers by me, seen him at a local flower shop time and that's what really attracted me to that technique of tying so he's kind of been like a big influence for local guy here around me.



Dave S 10:45

Oh, nice. Nice. This is a whiskey Jim. Is this a guy that's on? Can you find him anywhere?



Ryan 10:51

Yeah, that's his Instagram handle is whiskey gin. Because some beautiful stuff all in hand is talented, talented out tired For sure.



Dave S 11:01

Nice. Nice. What's I guess I had one question here. This is from Mark usyk from in the Facebook group he was talking about I guess when you first tide and how he was talking a little bit about some more of the history and and that sort of thing, but I mean, do you have any other resources anyplace? You know, if somebody wanted to learn more? You mentioned a few people there. Are there any other? Is there a ton of history out there? if somebody wanted to dig in and go deep on Atlantic salmon fly tying, where would they go?



Ryan 11:30

A classic, classic fly tying dotnet is a really good form to get on. There's a lot of really good tires on there. And again, there's forums you can post a question you can join post a question and then you'll get tons of feedback from amazing tires if you if you have questions about it, and even like reaching out to the flying community through Instagram, everyone's really humble and likes to help everybody. So you know, there's there was a few times when I first started typing, I would reach out to somebody and ask them a question and they respond back and that it's just your turn to practice and learn the

fibers, right? That's what it comes down to with these patterns is you really have to know the feathers and what you're working with.



Dave S 12:09

Can you describe a typical, you know, maybe a state? Is there a standard type, when you look at the time these flies that, you know, they all have this in common or this style? Or what would you say to that question?



Ryan 12:23

Yeah, I would say they all have, the main common thing would be like tail tag, you know what I mean? But they all seem to have a tail tag, but in Atlantic salmon patterns, depending on what it is, you know, and then they all have a throat tackle, you know, it's, it's pretty irrelevant to every salmon fly, essentially, right? I feel like all the patterns are based off of traditional wet flies just souped up, you know, yeah. If you look at You know, like you did the podcast there with John Chewy about the history of the steelhead fly which was an awesome one. And he went into great detail about that that's a good one to listen to if everyone wanted to learn the history behind it



Dave S 13:14

Yeah, that's right. That's right Sure. Yeah, that was that was way I was quite a ways back he was Yeah, I'm trying to think exactly what he dug into but that's right. He touched a lot and I and I'm just looking now at some of your on your Instagram feed and you know, that's what sticks out is the law of the Flies or you know, there Yeah, like you said, they're not super heavily dressed they look like kind of like Well, some of them are hot more heavily but a lot of them look like they're a mix between steelhead and Atlantic salmon kind of sparse with you know, like this one I'm looking on. February 13. Talking about D flies. I'm not sure which fly the pattern This is but it's got like a you know, it's got a pink and orange body with the little orange tail. tag me out. I mean, they're pretty basic right there. I mean, what would you say? Are there any patterns that I mean? What would you do it for a pattern if you had to go out tomorrow for steel at what do you throw it on there?



Ryan 14:08

It depends on water clarity, water height. When it waters clear, I tend to fish more space, flies, purples, blacks, greens, natural colors, you know what I mean? And then if the water is

dirty, something with more bulk, right? So I tend to tie my flies sparse because you know, we do a lot of winter fishing here in Ontario. And I feel a sparse flight is easier to get down on the water column faster. Gotcha. Gotcha. That makes that makes sense. Okay.



Dave S 14:39

And what I'm just kind of looking at some of your feet here. This is cool. There's there's a ton of ton of cool features. I was noticing you had a different line. You had the Douglas outdoors in your Instagram, kind of as a main link. Are they are you affiliate? I'm trying to think of what is your affiliation with With those guys



Ryan 15:03

I'm affiliated with those guys on their pro staff team.



Dave S 15:06

That's awesome. Yeah, I just interviewed. I don't think it's out yet but I interviewed Morton, and we talked about Yeah, we talked about the company and pike fishing. It was a pretty good episode.



Ryan 15:17

Yeah, their hooks are super sticky sharp, but they're pretty cool. And because I tie a lot of, I get enjoyment out of doing a lot of classic Air Wing patterns for steelhead. And the HR hooks are pretty much equivalent, I feel to like the Partridge and or Partridge M or the 799 TMC that same hook Ben so they look really, really good when you tie a beautiful heroin on.



Dave S 15:42

That's cool. That's, that's great. You just answered I was trying to, we were talking a little bit about some of the other bigger stuff. I guess there may be more known for some of their big, you know, predator stuff, but yeah, that so that is the hook that answers the question. What's the best hook for if you wanted a good steelhead hook from From those guys that that would be it.



Ryan 16:02

Yeah. And their trailer hooks are like, their trailer hooks are unbelievable. They have two different ones one that's got like, if you have more material on a fly, the shank of the hook is actually longer a bit longer so you can kind of like, have the hooks back. It's a weird hook. I've never seen anything like it, but it's it's really cool. And then the spears on the hook are all a little bit longer. They're barbless on some of the trailer hooks. So you I feel like when you have a longer spear on a hook, your chances of losing a fish are less and that's the problem when people do barbless hooks is that the spears to shorts, a lot of loss, right? So that's very important. That's one thing I look for when I'm looking at hooks is spear length.



Dave S 16:48

And the spear is not described as that just the length of from the point back to the to the bend.



Ryan 16:54

Correct? Yeah,yeah, gotcha.



Dave S 16:55

So you're saying the hooks and I'm looking at one now on your feed from May two 25th it's again I'm not exactly sure the pattern but it's it looks like what do you know hook? I mean, what are your typical the last few months are those all tied with a longer spear style hook?



Ryan 17:16

Those are all up to just recently all those are like Alec Jackson books, most of them and blue heron is what I've been been tying most of the stuff on up to now. Okay, there's a few on on. There's a few hair wings on there that are tight on some HR style hooks, but not very many. They're hard to get up here in Ontario, you know?A lot of people selling them. So



Dave S 17:43

I see what are you now are you selling flies maybe can talk a little about that what your,

what you do there and maybe what are some of the common patterns that get requested?

R

Ryan 17:54

I do. I do sell flies. Not very many because it's like just custom orders. Somebody will call Contact me and watch them but most the time it's like the spray flies is what tends to sell stuff, right? They're just quick. They're they catch fish. You know what I mean? Like I can, I can put a spray fly on and I can, I can guarantee you that you're going to get a fish on a fly. You know? Let's do something about them. They're just extremely fishy aspera D Those are my like to go twos. And remind us again the difference between a Spain and a D fly. I'm



Dave S 18:28

trying to think who I asked that last time I Oh, and maybe it was just a result of something. What are the I asked that it was the same thing they're like well, it's it's not Yeah, it's not a super easy one day answer.

R

Ryan 18:38

Yeah, it's not because there's like so many in the time community there's so many rules and you know what I mean? Like, sure. It's a tough one. Like, I don't know a D fly a D fly to me, in my opinion, like in my mind has to split wing wings, right. Oh, right. But then sometimes, but sometimes I feel a D fly could have like a hurl wing, you know what I mean? Like there's, there's just so much it's hard to say like, technically a fly also is not a fly unless it's from that area. Reverse Bay. Right? And so if you really want to get technical so that's a really hard question to answer.



Dave S 19:17

Yeah, no, that's no no worries. I think that that is the that's why I always ask it is I never I've always a little bit confused on it, but Okay, so let's talk a little bit more you know, on the fly tying So, you know, if you had a pattern looking at all these patterns, could you maybe pick one off of your something you've posted on your feed on Instagram that you can describe a little bit

R

Ryan 19:41

let me just pull it up here.



Dave S 19:42

Yeah. I'm curious I'm looking at or maybe I can just, I can just grab one that points out to me I'm I'm seeing some Yeah, you have some that are some intruder styles mixed in there. And then you've got some, you know, a mix of stuff, I guess.



Ryan 19:58

Yeah. I think Kinda have like a mix up, right? So what I tend to do is buy some days I'm really really busy with work. So if I want to like if I have limited time to go fish, I have like my dirty box I call it so it's like, you know your traditional Marabou space, a few AI intruders. And that's my box. If I go I know I'm going to get a fish 100% if the waters flows bang on, you know what I mean? temperatures good. All that stuff. I'm going to get a fish with those flies. I know 100%. Then when I have more time, I spend more time on the river. I can play around and fish all the space and the DS and the mixed wings stuff and really enjoy it right. But sometimes sometimes it's limited on what you have. So well. So like one of my most recent, the yellow throat on it. It's one that I'm doing for like a donation there. And that's the helmsdale so It's just like crest, golden crest tail tippet on the back, tinsel tag, orange, but and then a tensile body yellow throat and then hurl and then I just took left and right five fibers of colors and mixed alternated them so they don't marry together. And then I did a wool head on it. And that's pretty much like it's super sparse. Good spring pattern pattern, you know, for bright day I feel if you want to fish something on a bright bright day.



Dave S 21:33

Gotcha. And this is and again, we're, we're talking mostly when we're thinking here where the Grand River is usually your focus on a lot of these flies.



Ryan 21:42

Yeah, yeah, the Grand River. There's certain colors that work really, really really well and well in that river. So I tend to fish more of like the oranges and natural colors. I find work the best in there. Yeah, for me anyway. You know, because it's never that rivers never Really flowing gin clear. There's always a little bit of a murky water to it.



Dave S 22:04

Can you take us to the the grand a little bit maybe and I can't remember exactly what Peter Charles you know exactly what he dug into on that episode but you know start right now it's it's a we're almost into August now and just talk about, you know, steelhead fishing when you're getting ready and the seasons on on that river.



Ryan 22:23

So pretty much I'll start going out and trying my luck, the end of September on the Grand River for steelhead. And then it really gets good in October November. That seems to be like the ticket number anywhere in Ontario, I find for fishing, but that's when I really hit it hard. Get out as much as I can. And again, it depends. It all comes down to like how much rain we get, you know, and I mean, how cold the water gets, you know, we've had a pretty hot summer so who knows what this season is going to be. Yeah, and then I start all the way up the There's different stretches to start at, right, the lower part kept through Caledonia and all those areas and then you come up into Paris and there's a bunch of river access up there that you could try. It's a great trip like you know, I've heard stories I have yet to try it. I have a goal next year and that's to get a steelhead on a dry fly. And supposedly go guys can get them on dries on the ground. So I'm really going to dedicate some time to trying to skate for some steelhead I that's always been a dream.



Dave S 23:29

Nice. That's a good that's a good goal for sure. So basically, it's October November is pretty and then the winter sets in there pretty soon and there's not a lot of wind like later winter fishing going on.



Ryan 23:41

Yeah, no, it pretty much closes the end of December. That River. So then you're Yeah, you got to fish, some other other stuff. Not too soggy but the credit River near me. You know, it's kind of open all year in certain stretches. I do go down to the states and fish like the DSR. The Salmon River. I'm in the winter do a trip to trips I did last year down there that's a great great tributary big fish. See I kind of you got to travel a bit right



Dave S 24:12

Right. Right exactly so yeah and it just to finish you know on that on the ground just

wrapping that up that thought there so if you're so in November maybe we just jump into a few little tips and tricks on you know, October November so you're fishing there you have you know, anyone that you pray gravity, what are your flies depending on the condition or you know, changing it up, but any tips you wanna throw out there for somebody if they're hitting it for steelhead?



Ryan 24:38

Yeah, make sure you go out with a nice big rod because it gets pretty windy.



Dave S 24:42

Oh how big.



Ryan 24:43

I fished like a 14 footer I find works the best because there's some days in the wind really picks up and Gus excuse me, and it gets really really hard to make some casts. If you have like a 12 foot rod. I find You can, it's a really frustrating river to fish because there's pocket water everywhere. So you can't really get frustrated and it gets big gust of wind that time of year right? So you need a little bit bigger I find that you need a bigger rod with a little bit heavier head on it to get your cast out there to the runs.



Dave S 25:22

Gotcha. Gotcha and what do you use them so what wait and what line are using there



Ryan 25:27

so I tend that river I tend to fish a rage, and I fish a 570 rage so I go anywhere from a 510 to a 570 range on an eight wait. And then if it's like kind of a non windy day, I tend to fish more of like a longer line like a bridge fly line. Or your classic like stobi long belly or not a long belly but belly line if I want to have some fun and fish smaller stuff Smaller flies, you know? So again, like it just depends on conditions and what's happening if you got to throw heavy sink tips because the temperatures colder you know, because the water changes its density so you got to throw a little bit heavier sink tip on, then you know you step up again to like a 570 rage. doubt you get your fly down. Right,



Dave S 26:22

gotcha. So using the Yeah, so you're thrown on a sink tip on the rage. And then yeah, that's right. And I I recently was chatting with Bruce Kruk. You know, he's kind of they're more of a Clearwater guy and some of that stuff and he's, you know, they're using some, you know, longer stuff up to like, you know, 1516 foot some of the longer belly stuff. But I guess for you guys. That's not really something you see that often up there because it is a pretty big river, right?



Ryan 26:51

It is. Yeah, the Grand River is huge. Like you can I've seen guys fishing like 80 foot long belly lines out there before you know what I mean? Yeah, you can totally do it. You can totally do it. That water because you have the capability. My perfect headline that I like to fish is 55 feet. That's what I love to cast all day long. And then Apollo leader on top of that, you know, 10 1012 foot Paulie leader and then your tippet You know, you're throwing what, what's that? 6070 feet call it, you know, that's perfect. Yep. Yeah. Anything longer. Anything longer than that? I feel like you could potentially lose hookups. Right. So



Dave S 27:30

Right, right, right. Nice. Well, what's what's your plan for you know, you've got all this stuff on Instagram going these these flies are tying but you've got kind of the the day job. What's your plan for the feed? And what can we expect from you coming out here in the next, you know, few years, five years or so?



Ryan 27:47

Uh, I plan on doing some trips. I hope that I can go out to the west coast there to that big flying convention that they have out there. Everyone that goes Oh, yeah, the camera.



Dave S 27:57

Yeah. The Albany. The flight, tying And is that the one in Albany? Albany right? Albany Oregon. Yeah.



Ryan 28:04

rats. Yeah, I really want to go to that one. One year. I was supposed to go to the Spanish

one this year, but that obviously due due to what's going on in the world that one got canceled. So hopefully next year, I plan on doing a little more shows in the next five years traveling a bit more fishing a bit more. Yeah, I'm just going to keep tying flies and progressing as a tire. You know, you're always learning everything is always getting better. Because the more you The more time you spend at the vise, the better looking your stuff gets. Right So



Dave S 28:39

yeah, definitely, definitely school. What maybe we just keep up back on that grand thing just to wrap up the 222 here on tips, you know, kind of resources and things like that. What was your so you throw out one there what would be a second since that's a good one for if things are clear versus kind of maybe higher with more color or What are the two patterns you're going for over on the grand



Ryan 29:03

Marabou space, hobo space? Something you know with big profiles if it's like murky, like that waters never really clear like you'll get like a foot of visibility I find in the wintertime, right? Yep. So yeah, anything kind of Marabou spray with tons of movement in it. purples, oranges tend to work really well, for us. That's our kind of you see me I'm going to have orange fly on. Yeah, I'm giving it away. But



Dave S 29:35

you like orange? Yeah.



Ryan 29:36

Yeah, I like orange in that river. You know, I don't know what it is. It's just the ticket item.



Dave S 29:41

Have you ever heard of the the max Canyon?



Ryan 29:43

Yeah, yeah.



Dave S 29:45

Oh, cool. Cool. That's casted like it's a that's a fly that my dad created like back in the 70s. A long time ago.



Ryan 29:52

Yeah, yeah. You know, you just have one of those patterns that you throw it on and you just fish that's what it all comes down to confidence in the fly. Yep, that's it. Um, yeah, you can throw anything on. But if you don't have confidence like it, it's hard to explain because I fish stuff that I have confidence in way different than the way I fish stuff that I don't have confidence in. You know, because you're like, this is you second guess yourself when you don't have confidence in it. Yeah. Then when you have confidence in it, it's like, yeah, this is gonna get me a fish. So every cast you make, you're like, Oh, this one is gonna get a grab, you know? So, yeah, orange on that river I'll always put on that's my first fly that I go through the runway is an orange. And then from there, I'll adjust to a purple. You know what I mean? Yeah, and then just keep changing it. And if those two colors don't work, then again, you know, you just keep trying and trying and trying until you get something you know, mother patterns or Emerald shiner patterns or, you know, it's just a mystery. The river is full of treasures and treats so you don't know what you're getting. You could get a channel cat you can get up



Dave S 30:57

No kidding.



Ryan 30:58

A walleye. Yeah. You can get anything. It's a real mixed bag, you know?



Dave S 31:03

So okay, so and you had the on the tips thing. So you had the one big rod. So any other another tip you throw out there.



Ryan 31:12

Just go on the internet and check flows in the river.



Dave S 31:15

Mm hmm. What's a good flow? If you're in there in October, November? What what's the perfect flow for that river?



Ryan 31:22

I like 5550 to 55 is what I like that's,



Dave S 31:26

that's cubic feet per second.



Ryan 31:29

Yeah, correct. Yep. Yep. So yeah, I like I like to fish that flow. It's a safe one. Anything, anything over that is kind of dangerous. Yeah, I feel in my opinion, that river gets ribbon, you know, pretty wide. So anything over that is kind of dangerous. I feel gotcha.



Dave S 31:46

Is there a Is there a dam upstream?



Ryan 31:50

In Caledonia? There is a dam Yeah, yeah.



Dave S 31:52

So they can and then there's another?



Ryan 31:54

Yeah, yeah, there's not. I don't know if they don't really control in Caledonia. The water flow there. I think the furthest dam that they control from is the upper grande if I'm correct, but again, I'm don't really follow the, the dam systems. So that's really a definite answer on that.



Dave S 32:18

What's your on? I guess just to wrap that thing up there on the resources, you talked about a couple of the other resources other than what you've mentioned before, that'd be good. I guess we've kind of changed this. We're talking more we start with Atlantic salmon flies. Now we're just focusing on steelhead. But, you know, if you had to say I guess since we are talking about steelhead and any other resources you throw out there.



Ryan 32:40

No, not really. Because it just at the end of the day, it's just water. The flow of the river and the discharge of what's coming out. Yeah, and that's my main focus that I watch when I went fishing is garbage.



Dave S 32:53

Isn't it hard on that river because it's so big right at that river to actually use it if you're new if you're just to walk up there today. With your 14 foot rod and your rage, and just look out, would it be hard to know where to start fishing?



Ryan 33:07

Yes. And that's the big problem that everyone tends to have when they show up to that river is because there's water everywhere you'll be walking and you'll be knee deep. And then next thing you know, you'll be to your waist. So, depending on water flow, sometimes you don't really have to walk out that too far in some of the runs, right? When you get a heavy when you get a heavy flow, you can fish tight to the bank, because those fish won't sit out in the middle of the river, right? they'll push to the to the shore. Yep. So always start in close, you know, start close to the bank. And then if you're comfortable, you can keep stepping out. So what I do is I like fish or run and I fish tight to the bank. And then I'll get out and then I'll walk back up to the head of the run. And then I'll start casting again. And I'll kind of work like a grid system until it gets kind of like uncomfortable for me to like walk in, you know, and I'd be like, Okay, this is my limit of where I can walk out to and I'll just fish that systematically throw the run, and then I'll do the same. So I'll fish it the same pattern all the way through. And then I'll come out I'll sit on the bank, have a drink of coffee or whatever, changed my fly and then do the exact same thing again after I rest the run.



Dave S 34:14

That's a Yeah, I mean, that's a great tip on breaking it down. I just thinking about you know, because you hear different things depending on the river, obviously. And, again, I mentioned the Clearwater, you know, Bruce Kruk was talking about how the runs are so bad, they're, I mean, they literally have closed the river down, you know, the last few years for steelhead. It's so bad, but he mentioned that, you know, when the river is when the runs are low, it's spotty. You definitely don't want to be covering just one run, you know, you want to spread out and cover you know, more, more of a run. Is that what you find? I mean, it sounds like you're really niche, you know, these little areas, so you're kind of hammered down on it. But are you? Is there a time when you'd want to spread out and just cover a lot more water?



Ryan 34:55

Yeah, yeah. When I know when I'm unsure where the fish are holding them all. All cover water faster right? So if I'm doing that all fish like a large pattern then I'll step down to small pattern fish the run twice and then jump in the truck and go to the next run until I find those pods of fish right and then once you kind of know where the fish are then you can fish that run more methodically



Dave S 35:17

perfect. What do you see you know different I mean obviously that you're online so you're seeing a lot of different you know, West Coast versus Great Lakes. It seems like a Uranus spot which is good for swinging I mean are there a number of rivers up there that you know maybe you don't hear about that are also good for swing because it seems like that a lot of the Midwest stuff is a little bit different game what's the take is just smaller rivers mainly.



Ryan 35:40

Yeah, the Grand River I would have to say on this side is probably the biggest one and then you got like the saugeen and the Maitland, which are a little bit smaller than the grand again, they're really good. It's really good water to to fish for steelhead. And we're 40 minutes. Like I said, we're 40 minutes to two hours of anything. Real good fishing you know and I mean as good as it's gonna get for for migratory fish here Yeah. Browns Do you know like I got a local river here if I don't have time to go out and fish it's just like a little mud mud slit but it holds nice migratory Browns in it, you know so I take a little switch rod out and go for migratory browns. So you got like a real mix, you know, steelhead

browns, or you get both in the river at the same time. So again, you don't know what you're going to get when you're swinging. You know you can get a brownie and get a steelhead. Yeah, so just since time of year, November if it's cold, you know, so it's kind of nice that I have the option that I can kind of travel and go to different rivers if I want the saugeen is another great river to fish. If anyone ever wants to fish that river, there's lots of guide outfits that run out there too. It's pretty popular.



Dave S 36:54

what's the what's the local fly shop or what's your shop close closest by



Ryan 37:00

Closest shot to me is probably drift Outfitters in Toronto. But in saying that I, I tend to order a lot of my material from the west coast. Oh, Roy from BC. Yeah, yeah, I, I don't know, I just feel like the material selection is much larger for me and in the style that I tie. So I have a I have a local shop out there that I've become friends with the manager. And I just put together a massive order and they just ship it out to me. There you go.



Dave S 37:32

There you go. Yeah, it's, I mean, that would make sense too, because it's, you know, when you get out on the river other than the grand you know, guy steelhead fishing, what percentage of people are swinging flies versus other types of fly fishing or just conventional gear?



Ryan 37:48

Yeah, there's, there's there's a pretty good number of double hand guys. And then there's a pretty good number of guys that are indicator fishing for steelhead, but, you know, you don't really see the grand You don't see a lot of indicator Fisher's guy like guys out there fishing indicator rigs because the river so big Yeah, you get more speed guys on that water. So there's a real mix of what you do you know and I mean some other rivers you go to there's like the old school single hand swinging flies, which is kind of cool to see you know, so you get a real mix of stuff. It's hard to get stuff I find like good premium grade material. That's my big that's what makes a nice fly right? Is the material. You know, you go to a store and you buy material that's like I call it like a C grade you're going to get a C grade fly right?



Dave S 38:37

Do you do any like material dyeing at all? Is that something people are still doing out there?



Ryan 38:44

There's a few guys it's still do it. Yes, I had a dye kit given to me. I was gonna experiment in dyeing. It's kind of my next process here over the winter to kind of play around with no cool. So we'll see how that goes because it is kind of cool. You can make Your own.



Dave S 39:01

What would be your question I mentioned earlier Dave McNeese, who's kind of known for his material dying. He had uh oh, well he's out at that flight tying, you know, thing he's been out down here for quite a while, but what would it? Would there be a question you'd have that, you know, for some for him or somebody about dying?



Ryan 39:20

Can you burn the material?



Dave S 39:21

All right.



Ryan 39:24

You know what I mean? Like, yeah, and then, you know, I've gotten some feathers before that were died. And then you go to wrap it and the stem breaks. So that's like the materials burnt right? Yeah. So how to use that. And I just read his article. Actually, he just did an article. I think it's, yeah, he just did an article on dying feathers. And I read the whole thing and it seems a little overwhelming at first, but like, as does anything right. When you first start doing it, you're overwhelmed by it, you know? And then the more you do it, the easier it gets. Right. So



Dave S 39:54

yeah, and then that's when you get it dialed in. Yeah, you keep doing it and doing then

you just get Got it dialed in. It's like a, you know, not a perfect science. But yeah, it gets pretty nice when it gets to that point.



Ryan 40:06

Yeah. And again, you know, you're gonna waste material like when I first started tying salmon flies, I wasted tons of material like I could have I should have just thrown in the garbage because like my first flies were hideous, you know, when I started so, yeah, that learning curve with anything.



Dave S 40:22

How do you feel like your flight time is now compared to that time when you were throwing them in the, in the bucket? I mean, were they, you know, do you feel like you're at a very high level are you still have a lot to learn?



Ryan 40:34

Oh, I still have a lot to learn. I've only been I think this is like my sixth year. Coming into tying these patterns I feel, I think, uh huh. And I still have a lot to learn. You never stop learning?



Dave S 40:45

Yeah. What's the difference between when you see some of these people, and I'm sure who would be the bet you know, who is the best? Is there a person that's a, you know, if we go back to the Atlantic salmon fly tying right now that's out there. That's kind of known as one of the best



Ryan 41:00

I wouldn't really put a number one on anybody because everybody has their own style. That's what it comes down to. To me fly tying is like artwork, right? Either really, really likes some style or you don't really like somebody's style. So I kind of tell people, when they start tying that, you know, a lot of people will look towards attire and kind of try to imitate that tires style. But they won't work for you because it's not your style. So you really have to find your own style. I say like, so and so is the best because somebody might disagree with you. It's not like that style. Right? Right. So you kind of just not, I find you have to be like open minded to everybody's style. I mean, they're all going to catch fish at the end of

the day, right? That's what that's the judge.



Dave S 41:45

And even that is, you know what I mean, you're you're the river on yourself, and nobody really knows how well you know how many fish you're catching because it's kind of up do your own thing. It's interesting because, you know, I had Zach Williams on you know, he's the editor from The Fly magazine and he was, you know, with the spey casting, you can measure it, you know what I mean? And he did mention that I can't remember the name of the guy, but there is a guy out of Europe, who is no you know, he's the he has the record, right? He's known as the best at spell ramaa. Anyways, there's one guy and he's just, you know, pretty much he's cast. You know, he's got whatever it is 740 feet for forecasts, you know, that's his. That's the world you know.



Ryan 42:27

It's not Mackenzie, is it?



Dave S 42:29

A No, no, she's right. She's got the women's right, I think. Yeah. Now I wish I had it here. I should know it. It's. But yeah, but he said why isn't the other Travis Johnson has the single cat. I think he's almost 200 feet on one cast.



Ryan 42:48

That's crazy. It's super cool.



Dave S 42:49

Yeah, yeah. I know. That's the whole thing. So with that, it's really easy to just be like, okay, there's the longest caster but with flight tying. There's just no way right? And that's the cool thing is that there is no way to just say You know, you're the best. It's everybody's got their own thing.



Ryan 43:03

Yeah, everyone's got their own thing. You know, like, when I look at I fly, the first thing I

look at is the head. You know what I mean? That's



Dave S 43:09

alright, let's go to know if they if they're good or not, you can tell if it's clean that sort of thing.



Ryan 43:13

Yeah. Try to control is key, right when you're tying these flies.



Dave S 43:17

What is that thing when you make the you know, obviously some people love a nice little tiny, neat hair. That looks great. what's what's the secret on a neat small little head?



Ryan 43:27

I don't get my neck like I don't really focus on a tiny, tiny head because you get a tiny head. It's the way you tie it to get it that way. So the way you use your materials, you tie your underwing and then you tie your throw and then you tie your wing. I just looked for like a super neat head. size doesn't really matter because if you look at the old palettes, they weren't focused on size. So what to what I find works best for me is volume up or volume down. I call it spinning the bobbin and Lots of good wax, and wax through thread. And then really focus on like when I first started tying, I bought myself a set of those magnifying glasses that you wear on your head, you know what I mean? Yep. And I would literally watch every thread wrap. And I would make sure that I stacked every thread wrap so they were touching on my head to learn my thread control on my patterns. So rewind from the head. So where I really practice on I'm getting that dialed in was doing the body and again, with the magnifying glass, doing my thread wrap so everything was touching one another. And the only reason why I say magnifying glasses because when you put that thing on, you can really see close to the flyer and it teaches you really good tread control because if you spin your bobbin the thread depending on what you're going to use, it's going to go thin, or it's going to go flat. So depends on what you like to use. Like I don't like using too much too. GSP thread, you know, the gel spun stuff. I'm not a fan of that thread. I'm like old school. I just like unique. It works for me a wax to work great, right? So that one, you don't really have a whole lot of thread control, like gel spun. So that's my main thing that when somebody's asking me for advice on time, that's what I say you got to practice thread control. That's my main focus, and then learn, I always tell people, you

got to learn the material. You got to play with the feathers. Because every feathers different every stem is different. Every bird is different. So you really got to take your time and learn everything. Start with thread and then work your way from there.



Dave S 45:36

Perfect. Perfect. And what's your What advice do you use?



Ryan 45:40

Ah, I use a peak. Yeah, peak twice. Um, I'm in the market for a new one. Yeah.



Dave S 45:47

Yep.



Ryan 45:48

You know, yeah, I don't really use I don't really use the vise to hold Oh, that's right.



Dave S 45:51

Yeah, you're, you're not if you looked at a fly you tied in the vise versus a fly you tied in hand. Wood. Would it be easy to tell the difference? Same fly. Yeah.



Ryan 46:03

Yeah, yeah, you can tell the difference of faces a little bit neater. And then a fly in hand, you know, the heads a little bit bigger. It's a little buggy or looking, but I like the look of the hand flies. Because it's what a fly supposed to look like, just super ratty and fishy. You know, I feel like in the flying community, we've made these flies meant to be these beautiful pieces of artwork, but if you go back in history, they were just meant for one thing and one thing only. And that's just to catch fish, right. That's my opinion. Anyway,



Dave S 46:34

that's right. Yeah, the Instagram world you know what you are in? I mean, that's your, you know, people you know, I connected to you because of Instagram, right? That's the power

of and probably if you if you had a bunch of ratty looking flies with not great photos, we probably wouldn't be having this conversation, but you know what I mean? So it does make a difference there. But yeah, for fishing, it doesn't.

R

Ryan 46:56

Yeah, and you know, like, I have a few modern books, so untime salmon flies and like, there's a big difference between traditional flies and modern flies. The tying techniques, in my opinion are way way different because the modern stuff thin bodies, small heads, you know what I mean? They don't ever really talk about thin bodies in the old books. You know, so there's, I always tell people like kind of when you're learning how to tie don't really focus on them the modern day of tying, just focus on getting your own style and and don't worry about tiny heads and thin bodies.



Dave S 47:36

Yep, that's that's good. Just kind of again, back to your I got back to your feet now. I did fine. Oh, there you go. Yeah, you got it on here. So you got the I don't know where I am. I'm at may 3 2018. The the you had a like a purple body with an orange head. That got my it looks like an egg sucking leech a little bit right. With some peacock. Yeah. Peacock on that. What does that pattern is that Steel had snowflakes.

R

Ryan 48:03

Yeah, yeah, that's the snow fly. That was tied in hand. So I put Oh, cool. Yeah, I made. I made like a dubbing loop in hand, which was really, really hard.



Dave S 48:13

I see that. I see. That's cool. Gotcha. And then the next one below it on May 1 is a really natural, buggy looking, you know, green and brown. That's the classic. I'm not sure if that one has a name or not.

R

Ryan 48:28

A classic spades. I haven't. Yeah, that's. Yeah, that's a lady Caroline Varian.



Dave S 48:35

Yeah, it is okay. La Caroline. Then you keep going down then you get into the is that the purple noesis over Dr.



Ryan 48:42

Silver doctor and then that's the one the other one below that is a max Canyon variant that I did in a feather wing. Like an wing.



Dave S 48:51

Exactly. Which is cool. It's cool to see that and that's again, the max and you tight it really nice. That's, that's how it's kind of low water style. That's exactly How the original least on the body and stuff. Yeah, you had a really cool wing with the married the orange. I mean that's, I've seen a ton of Max canyons. And that is a cool a cool variant.



Ryan 49:12

Yeah, that one was tied in hand to



Dave S 49:14

Oh, wow. No kidding. Yeah, yeah. That's awesome. there's a there's a pattern that I love using it's it's basically it's a variant of the max cannon. It's just called a Stuart. And, okay, yeah. It's basically just a black. It's there's no orange on the body. It's a black body. It's basically just a black fly with a little bit of orange in the wing, a little bit of like, US calf tail. You know, a little bit of orange calf tail in the wing with golden pheasant. Tip it for the tail. Roy basic Royce, you know what I mean? So that's that orange is the key. That's cool. Yeah, you got tons of fun looking through this because you got a bunch of everyone I look at oh my god fish that



Ryan 49:54

was theirs. There's a bunch in there. You know the one below that one is the purple prison barian Hi john chewy from one of John's you there with the gold gold body that's like my go to fly one of my go to patterns that I fish a lot of right? Oh yeah, depending on what river I'm on. Let's see that fly on my rod a lot, you know, that's cool. They're super fun to tie I like to. I like taking traditional steelhead flies, like the Max ganyan for instance, and try

to do like a built wing variant of it right? Something different. It's fun.



Dave S 50:26

what's the what's the dupa fish? I see that hashtag I think your hat you have on that too? What what's the what's the dupa fish thing?



Ryan 50:33

I got there a media company from the states there and I was published in swing the flight magazine for like my artwork. And then I got hooked up with dupa fish because they were gonna they bought some artwork off me and they were gonna do some stuff with some of my artwork that I did because I paint like aquatic insects and, and stuff. So it's like, yeah, it's like street art style, you know, super bright, colorful stuff. So it's really fun. So that's how I got hooked up with those guys and we met in the states there in New York. Can we fish together? super cool. bunch of dudes.



Dave S 51:04

Cool. Cool. Yeah. And do you put Oh yeah, I see it now. Yeah, you got some early on. You did that early on. You're inside your Instagram feed, right?



Ryan 51:11

Yeah, yeah, there's a little bit there's a little bit of artwork on there what I've done. I'm like an artsy kind of guy, you know, comes with my job, I think.



Dave S 51:19

Right? Right. That's, that's cool. Well, I guess. So in the next, you know, six months or so anything new coming out for you anything we can keep an eye on? If we keep an eye on your feet? Are we going to see more of the same some of these flyers anything? You know, sounds like you got some trips, maybe you're gonna be heading down down south.



Ryan 51:38

That if the borders open up, you know, and everything goes well do some fishing trips down in New York State there. start tying more salmon flies because season is going to be

starting pretty soon. So I'll be at device pretty heavy.



Dave S 51:49

How many when you're when you're at device if you just tie in trying to get a pump out a bunch of flies. Do you ever sit down and just do that to a ton of flies? Are you more focusing on just a few patterns?



Ryan 52:01

Depends on what I'm tying. Right? Like if I'm tying my, I call them like fish catching flies. Then y'all pound out like two or three. But this classic stuff. Yeah. Well, he's one sitting I might get half a flight on. And I take my time, right. That's why like, if you notice my shots that I take on Instagram, I try to focus on key points that people look at, right?



Dave S 52:24

Yeah, like this one. I'm looking at one of the classic on July I think this is July 13. But it's got Yeah, yellow wing silver body. Tons of color in it, but yeah, you got it zoomed. You got it really focused on just the little part of the color. Well, not even everything's out of focus. Yeah, it's a cool how you shot that. How did you do that one. Do you know which one I'm talking about?



Ryan 52:47

Looking at on my phones, I don't really have the date.



Dave S 52:49

Oh, gotcha. Yeah, so it's, it's a Yeah, it's got to sit tinsel body it looks like with a really bright yellow with a little bit of a red head. And then you go Okay,



Ryan 53:02

that's the rubric doesn't say fall favorite.



Dave S 53:04

Oh, that is the fall favorite. Um, you know what it doesn't says? No, it does this classic sandfly variant with a steelhead, fly twist. donation fly. These will be going up for a couple days at scope. Anyways, yeah, yeah. So But anyways, it's cool how you did it because it's, you got it blurred. You know, like the front of the fly. The head is blurred. The back of the fly is blurred. And you're zoomed right in on just the the middle, which is kind of cool. Yeah, like you said, it kind of focuses right on that wing.



Ryan 53:37

Yeah, so it's just like my lens. I just use your standard 18 mil lens and then the way I set everything up. That's what like when I take it like what I'm trying to show there is like, the ribbing on the body, you know what I mean? Yeah, and then the headshot, show the head and then the tag. I try to show the tag, you know, so that's why I do multiple shots. So you can see different segments of the bug.



Dave S 53:59

Oh, right.



Ryan 54:01

You know, so yeah, it's fine.



Dave S 54:05

That's, that's a cool shot. Well, I'll put links out to your stuff here and some of these patterns. I'll throw some photos in the, in the blog post. And yeah, we'll keep in touch, I guess, just on Instagram at salmon junkie if folks want to connect with you, and



Ryan 54:20

yeah, for sure. Yeah, and I do really cool stuff to do. Like if somebody wants to, like, sit down and spend a session and tie up like, I do zoom or Skype, video chat. So we can like, chill out. Together, you know? Yeah, I like doing that with people. I do it with a bunch of people. It's fun tying parties, you know? Oh, right on.



Dave S 54:41

And is that where you're trying to? There are a number of people on the zoom call tying together.



Ryan 54:46

Sometimes there is and and other times, it's just like one on one and we just talk fishing and tying techniques and kind of help the people like step through like an easy pattern. You know what it means? If you're new to tying salmon eyes and you have a million questions about a big pattern like to sit down and do it for like a full, a full wing, like full feather like full built wing fly, or take multiple sets. That's like sittings. But just to get through like your typical feather wing, and you and you're not sure where to start or whatever I have zero problem like sitting down and hanging out, showing you thread control and how I do it.



Dave S 55:21

That's cool. What do you I curious, you know, just on doing that, so because that takes time, everybody's busy. What Why do you? Why do you do the calls? And and I guess why do you do the you know, the Instagram as well.



Ryan 55:32

I just I do the calls. Because when I first started typing like six years ago, or six or seven years ago, whichever it was, it's really hard to pull information from people and kind of interpret on how they do it. It's easier. I'm more of a visual learner myself and I don't know how other people learn. So you can read as much as you want, but sometimes it's still I still in understand and you just need that like guidance visually. So I just want to I just want to help people build out and just tie because the more beautiful flies that are on the internet more I want to look at Instagram. Let's see how they do it for right so there's nothing better when you have a crappy day at work you pull up your Instagram account and there's just like a spectacular bug they're there to stare at right so it's fun.



Dave S 56:17

Yeah it gets it It gets you fired up for fishing for sure. Does that



Ryan 56:23

Yeah, or motivates you to do own twist on a bug right so Yeah, totally.



Dave S 56:29

Totally cool. Well, I'll let you get out here Ryan I appreciate you coming on and in sharing some some of your story here and some of the good flies and everything you have gone and all Yeah, I'll check back with you and keep in touch as we head on forward and we'll keep we'll keep seeing that the new stuff you have going as we as we head on. So there you go. If you want to find all the show notes with all links we covered just gonna wet fly swing comm slash 153 Have you ever thought about starting your own podcast I am helping people get into To podcasting at outdoors online.co slash s AP for start a podcast. That'll get you engaged some free stuff so you understand how to get started. And if you want to take it a bit further if you already have a podcast, I'm also doing some podcast production. So it'd be great if you reach out to me. Well, you can go through that same link and get started. That's that's how we roll here. Thanks again for stopping by today to check out show I'm looking forward to catching up with you soon hope to maybe see you online or on the river.



unknown speaker.... 57:32

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