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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** We will edit so if something does pop up.

[00:00:03] **Speaker 2** We'll do that and we can re-answer whatever I understand.

[00:00:07] **Speaker 1** So I guess, let's start with the history. The liquids history? Yeah, give me the background. OK. This is your, what generation are you?

[00:00:15] **Speaker 2** So I'm the fourth generation, our family owners, we've gone through a couple different namesakes, but it was my great-grandmother that started the resort. She worked for a guy that owned an island here on the lake. And she did housekeeping for him, took care of all the services around his place. And he happened to own Lakewoods at the time, too. And after a couple of years, it's just a small little island, he... He's like, Anna, I want you to go back to Lake Woods and you can take care of my guests there. When I want them to come out and visit me, I'll call on you and you get somebody to roll them out to the island and we'll entertain them out there and then they can come back and they can stay with you at Lake Woods. And after about a year of that, she's like well, this is silly to be doing it just for your guests, we should open it to the public. And so in 1907, she started renting to the Public and through the years she took over as a land contract. And bought the resort from the judge. So that's how it all started, you know, back there. And we're working, it's gonna be 120 years here.

[00:01:24] **Speaker 1** Great grandma Anna. That was great.

[00:01:25] **Speaker 2** That was my great-grandma Anna, yes. And she eventually, she married the engineer on the train. And so she went from Anna Nemec to Anna Young. And then their daughter, my grandmother, she ended up taking over and running the resort and married a Rasmussen. And so my father was the first Rasmuson that actually carried through with the name, otherwise it was changing every generation. And so I'm the second one. That carried it through, so.

[00:01:55] **Speaker 1** It's a great entrepreneurial story of how this started.

[00:01:59] **Speaker 2** Sure, absolutely, yeah, you know, at that time, you think a single lady, she started working for the judge, I think she was 14 or 15 years old, did that for several years and probably by the time she was 18 years old she was running Lakewoods as a single lady, her and her sister, who was a couple years younger.

[00:02:17] **Speaker 1** So we're talking about an era in which people would come up for longer than a brief weekend. Oh, sure.

[00:02:23] **Speaker 2** Oh, sure, absolutely, yes.

[00:02:25] **Speaker 1** So what was the draw for people to come up here?

[00:02:28] **Speaker 2** Well, at that time it was a hunting and fishing camp. People came up and they came up and they hunted in the fall, they fished. And then I'm not sure what they did in the winter. They, I don't know, maybe skied around or something, hid from the snow. But I think a lot of people, what they were doing is they were escaping the cities. Kind of like what they do now. They want to get out of here and get into what we all have up in this area. But they used to do it mainly probably from the heat, if you can imagine living in. Chicago, when there were all the horses and the toilets ran in the streets, what that place would smell like. Even worse than it does today. No offense to Chicagoans anywhere. But it was just a great place for them to come. They could get away from the heat. They could away from things. We've got Lake Superior just north of us, a big natural air conditioner. And it was a good place for him to go. They'd come up here, they could fish, enjoy the woods, get out into the forest, and everything else. Kind of what everybody does today

[00:03:26] **Speaker 1** So, over the generations, was there a gradual expansion of what Lake Woods Resort offered?

[00:03:35] **Speaker 2** You know, I'm not sure that it was. I mean, there was always that bent on, you know, getting people out to what the area has to offer. I mean that's really why it is a destination like it is. And you know I think that kind of held true and that was one of the reasons why my, you know my great grandfather, when was approached by the, at that time it probably was the park service, that they wanted to create a national forest here. And he's like, well sure. You know, my guest can always use the National Forest and everything else. And he, you know, ended up selling thousands of acres, you know, to help create the National forest for, you know, I remember it was a nickel or a dime or whatever it was. It was, you know, very little money at the time, you know, for to, to create what we have, help create what we have up here. And so I think that was always part of what, you know, we were as Lakewoods is getting people up here for what the area has to offer.

[00:04:30] **Speaker 1** So, I guess kind of the history lesson, when did the getting away for the hunting and fishing shift into a family getaway, or was that always an element?

[00:04:40] **Speaker 2** I think that was always an element, even I know my parents or my father when he grew up here at the resort too, you know they always had their guests and at that time like I said a lot of them would come and they'd just stay for the summer and then maybe they were they were school teachers or other people that were retiring you know kind of like what they do now to come up here but rather than having their own place they would come in see a place like this and a lot it was American plan so they would either they could either come and stay just. You know, for the room, or they could come and they'd have the meals planned and everything else. And we even have some of our cabins and stuff that are still named after, you know some of the guests, like our magic house, there was a guy that would stay there all summer and he used to do you know magic tricks for all the other people at the resort. And so we still have the magic house on the property and other ones. So, just a really interesting way of. We're doing that, we're, you know, these people are long friends. We have people that have been coming for, even now, there's families that have been coming over 75 years that have staying with us, so it really means.

[00:05:45] **Speaker 1** And you were born into this.

[00:05:47] **Speaker 2** I was born into this, yes.

[00:05:49] **Speaker 1** So the day you came home from the hospital, did they put you on the bar, or did they help you sweep in?

[00:05:54] **Speaker 2** There's some interesting stories though I remember at that time, a lot of times we would go out to the trade shows and stuff and through all the different cities and we'd sign people up to stay for the summer. That's how people found out where to go. They would come, they would see a brochure, talk with some of the people and then they're like, well that sounds like a great place to stay. And I got stories when I was a baby, they used to tuck me underneath the trade show booth and I'd sleep down there while they were doing this. So I grew up doing a lot other things. Stories of being on the counter back in the kitchen when they're helping with the meals and stuff on a busy weekend or something.

[00:06:29] **Speaker 1** Was this growing up, I mean, could you imagine a different life, or has this always been who you were?

[00:06:36] **Speaker 2** I think it's always been part of who I was. I mean, it was great. You know, we had, you know, for being a small community, small town and stuff, I got to expose to a lot of different things. You had different people coming up here every weekend, you know, all the kids and people and families and stuff that are here having fun. And a lot them are, you know some of my closest friends still today that were just guests here at the resort. And that really makes for, you an interesting, you now, way to grow up. I mean, it's just, it was fun. I mean a lot of work, a lot stuff to do around here, but, you know, you hire your friends to come and help you bag ice, you now, when you're a kid, you to do things. And they thought it was fine. And I remember stories of my dad and his, you know brothers and sisters, they used to go on the trash run. They'd go around all the cabins and picking up the trash and all the kids would come out and they'd all ride on the garbage truck as they went and picked up the trash to bring it to the dump. I mean it was. You know, those stories didn't start with me. They started, you know, way back before, and I'm sure it went on, you know, with my great-grandparents' kids.

[00:07:41] **Speaker 1** So part of our story is obviously focusing on a wall. And this has been known as a good wall, right? That communication is not recent or that's long-standing.

[00:07:50] **Speaker 2** No, it's been a Wale Lake. As long as we recall, and it's funny, we had somebody that did some research way back, and he was thinking, he's like, you know, I'm not sure that that Nemakagon was always a Wala Lake. It might have been more, you, know, this or that or other things, and they were planted back in the late 1800s or whatever it might have, and then they kind of thrived in the area. Not that there weren't Wala, of course, all through this area, but it was an thing that he had come up with. I'm not sure where it is, and I don't know if there's any truth to it, but as long as there's been any recorded history that we know of, this has been a Wally Lake. It's been a great sport fishing lake for everything. The Native Americans had their villages on here, and they fished and traveled through this area all the time, and that's what we know, I guess.

[00:08:44] **Speaker 1** So, there was a point in time back in the early 90s when the DNR did some surveys here, GlyphRig did surveys at nine walleye per, adult walleye, per acre, and that's three times what the state averages right now, so that is walleye fishery.

[00:09:01] **Speaker 2** Yes, absolutely. Yeah, it was there was I remember that you know as a kid and there were a lot and this got you know a lot of natural reproduction in there it's got great you know shorelines and stuff the rocky bottoms and other things that help make those fish thrive in this lake. And I think that's you know there it does receive that attention so it might receive more pressure and other thing for people to come up and fish on it.

[00:09:28] **Speaker 1** Did you fish when you were a kid? Did you have time?

[00:09:30] **Speaker 2** I did, we did a fair amount of fishing. It seemed like it was hard to do here because the work is always right there in the background for you. So we used to escape away too and get to other places and fish some of the other lakes. My grandfather loved to fish too, so we'd go out with him. My father and my brother and sister and stuff, we'd different places, go to Canada, go down to the Chippewa Flow Edge up here. I mean, this area, the Hayward Lakes area you know, it's got... Tons of fisheries so and good fishing in all of them really.

[00:10:03] **Speaker 1** So you were obviously here when the tribes first started reasserting their spirit.

[00:10:08] **Speaker 2** Yes, yes I was. I remember it. I was a teenager at the time and of course there was a lot of turmoil in the area. Like I received national attention with the protests and other things as that was happening. And you know, there's, I guess you can always look at things. You can look at the negative aspect and you can also look at positives and try to do that. And I know that was one thing that my father really tried to do was, you know he saw the potential impact and what was going on. And tried to come up with ways of helping solve the problems that were coming up with those changes.

[00:10:43] **Speaker 1** So, your mother was making reference to this before, but he said that Phil, your father, but was on a council back then. Yes. To try and start looking at possible solutions of what can be done.

[00:10:55] **Speaker 2** Yeah, in fact that was one of the things right away that he did is he got involved and contacted with the different tribal leaders and stuff in the area and came up with an idea for this fish for the future. And he didn't do it alone, there was a lot of other people that were involved with it too, but they were all proactive and thinking hey there's got to be some solutions to these problems. And you know they tried a bunch of different things and did some other things to help You know, make sure that the lake maintained its, you know, status as being a great walleye fishery and really fishery for all the different game fish.

[00:11:29] **Speaker 1** What is the significance of wildlife? What did it mean when they started to decline?

[00:11:36] **Speaker 2** Yeah you know I think that's that's you know it's the iconic fish that in the muskie you know obviously people think of the north woods you know and they think of fishing up here they think of walleye they think a muskie and you know being that both of them are in this lake you know to have one starting to lose prominence or something like that really did affect people because I mean they came up here and a lot of our guests through the years that was the thing you know they wanted to go out there they wanted, to catch their you know their dinner for the frying pan. And, you know, muskie isn't one of those fish. So what is it? Well, it's the walleye. And so the people that would come up here, you know they wanted to, you don't do that. We have cooking in our units and stuff up here and they wanna do their own little fish fry or they come into the restaurant here and enjoy our fish fry that we serve them here too.

[00:12:20] **Speaker 1** I mean, was there a real threat that could change the economy of the area? That fishing, even if it wasn't the main driver, was enough of an element?

[00:12:32] **Speaker 2** Oh, absolutely. And in fact, I think we did see it. And, you know, there were again, some, you know, negative aspects of, of the, of, you know, early on that, that started to take prominence and, you know, it started, you know, probably, you know, in the 90s, mid 90s and that where, you know, the initial impetus for everybody working to make, solve problems because of that, it kind of went away for a lot of them and still the problems, you you know, that that came from. That the type of fishing, the pressure that was still on the fish and other ones, they started developing later. You know, like you said, 90s, you know, they were, you know all these fishes are like three times the national or excuse me, the state average. But yet at the end and in the 2000, I don't remember when all the censuses were, all of a sudden we're like, you now, there's only one fish you can catch. You know we went from having five fish to three fish and all of sudden they're saying, you there's one fish and it's gotta be a slot. You know, even to the point they were talking that maybe you're not going to be able to keep any of the fish while the fishery recovers. And all of a sudden, boom, the prominence comes back, that interest comes back from the public and the community and stuff. They're like, hey, we really got to do something to improve this fishery.

[00:13:48] **Speaker 1** Is it was around 2017 that some of those surveys showed the absolute crash to below state average. Sure. And we've talked with Mike D'Andrea, we've talked with Greg Cliff, and you've got to use Steven's Point and the Opticulture Center. What was those first conversations like, of getting people back together, like, hey, you can still find a solution and do something?

[00:14:13] **Speaker 2** Well, I think they went back and reexamined some of the programs that they had that they started back in the 80s, you know, the late 80s and that. You know, where we worked with the tribes that were coming out and exercising their rights out here to, you know, milk the sperm, get the eggs, raise the fry, or even just, I mean, even early on they were just like, you know, let's fertilize those eggs and let's just put them back in the water and keep that going. And they took it even one step further now, working with the tribes up at Red Cliff there, where they have the fishery up there that they're raising them. We're raising nine inch fish and putting them back in the lake, and we're talking tens of thousands of fish that we put back into the lake here. And we're starting to see those results. We had guests here that are out fishing, and they're saying, jeez, I went out and caught 30 fish today. You know, I mean, I haven't caught fish like that since I, you know, went, you know to some other prominent place, maybe in Canada or some of those waters where there's, you know they have a really significant population of walleye. They're like, I hadn't caught a fish like that here for a long time. You know maybe they weren't all giant trophies, but you know what? Catching fish is catching fish and it's a lot of fun. So, and that's really what we want to do is people to go out there. I don't think, you now people really want to take home all these baskets of fish maybe like they wanted to at one time or another. And you know a lot of people don't want to. Don't clean a stinky old fish in their place anyways and try to cook it on the stove you know I don't need to do that I can go to a great restaurant that are all through the area like here at Lakewoods and get my walleye dinner there and you know somebody's gonna do it expertly prepared for me rather than you know something that I cook once a year when I go on vacation so

[00:16:00] **Speaker 1** And that is a difference between now and 30 years ago, is that why people fish and what enjoyment they take from it. It's not as focused on the harvest. It's more of the catch and if you put it back, that seems but just the idea of catch and release.

[00:16:16] **Speaker 2** Yep, that catch and release has been popular and it's done a lot to improve the fishing up here. I mean, look what it did for the muskie when people quit harvesting the muskies and just putting them out back in. You know, take a picture of it, get a reproduction done, put that on the wall instead of, you know, taking that fish out of the water. And, you now, it's, it has done a whole lot through the whole area for improving that muskie fishery. Now, this is your place. If you want to catch a trophy fish, you want come out here because that 40 plus inch muskie. Your chances here are probably better than just about anywhere to catch that.

[00:16:49] **Speaker 1** So, looking at the history of how your resort has evolved as well, just some of the improvements you've done, adding a golf course, some of those other elements, is it a coincidence that you started adding more amenities around the time that the walleye started their decline?

[00:17:03] **Speaker 2** You know, I think that was part of it. You know I don't know if this came up before in your talks with anybody else. But you know, the prominence of that fishing opener. You know? I remember when I was a kid and I was growing up even in, you know into the 20s. You know into my 20s I should say. That, you know, I mean, it was like a week-long festival. I mean it was wild up here and you know people are coming and there's a lot of excitement and stuff in the air and you people can't wait and the boats are lined up and they're coming in and they telling stories and the bars and the restaurants and everything is fun. The whole area is buzzing. Add fishing opener every year. You know, like I said, sometime in the 2000s, maybe, you know, it's just started. It seemed like every week it was, or every year it was going down a little bit more, a little more, a little but more for the number of people that were coming up. And really the last, you now, maybe like you said, I mean, it was before 2017, we just, it just almost was like a non-event. And there weren't a lot of people that were come up here anymore for it. And I think, you there's a lot of different reasons for that. You know one, you while I've been planted throughout the state now. And people can go near their homes. They didn't have to drive all the way to the far northern reaches of the state to catch a walleye. They can catch some down in their different areas and throughout all of Wisconsin. So I think that affected a lot of the people having to drive so far up here. But then too, like you said, maybe all of a sudden you can't catch it. All of a suddenly you went from five fish to one fish or two fish and one can be over and one could be under and all that and people are just like, It's just not as much fun, or maybe there's a negative connotation that's added to that for in people's heads that, you know, they look at walleye as, you know, that's that fish I want to catch and I want bring home, I want harvest it and keep, you know, and all of a sudden they say, oh, we can't. So I think that affected a lot of it. And now that, you know maybe some of that stuff has changed, people aren't really harvesting as much as they are just want to go out and catch that we're going to see some resurgence in there, especially if they can come out and they hear like, geez, I can catch 10, 15, 20 fish. And a day up here, because the fishing is so good, even if they're not taking my water, all of a sudden that excitement is there and we'll see more fishermen again.

[00:19:25] **Speaker 1** So, looking on your website, just how you brand yourself, you talk about when you were a kid underneath the table of people, at one point, this was probably advertised as a walleye resort, or as a place to come fish in a great walleye fishery, and that branding isn't really as prominent, and it's a great relaxation, it's family resort, it's at least a wonderful place to spend your time, and just like, who you're calling to seems to have shifted over time.

[00:19:51] **Speaker 2** Yeah, you know, I think that's part of it, and I think our changes as a resort and our market and stuff has changed a lot with, you know, the family values and stuff that we see in the state where, you know, maybe like the kid's parents today, maybe they did some stuff with their grandparents and did a little fishing, but it wasn't such a big part of why they were going and doing things. And all of a sudden that just didn't carry on to their kids and so You know, fishing is part of that family culture has changed a lot for people, and so it's not as important a part of their vacation plans and other things. There's still some, you know, there's still a lot of families that are. I mean, in fact, we just had a long-time guest comes up muskie fishing all the time, came up with his grandparent or his grandfather, comes up with this father. He's lamenting because he's got to leave on Wednesday this week because work came up. And you know he's been coming up since, I remember him just being a little kid coming up here. And he's like, yeah, I'm going to have to leave early because I can't do it. But obviously, that family is really important for them. But a lot of the families now, it's fun. We'll go out and do it, but it's not a big part of their vacation experience.

[00:21:01] **Speaker 1** Just we were out of the lake for a few hours when we were here last time and just looking out the windows now I mean you see the tubes the skiers the jet skis. You've got the big slide. I mean, it's it's fun. It's action It's not Fiction since let's see if we get a bite today

[00:21:16] **Speaker 2** Yeah, and it depends on the time of the day. Like, you know, this morning, I remember I got up, I don't know why I get up at the sunrise, I shouldn't have, but the dogs have to get let out too. And I'm sitting out on the deck and I'm out there and I see the boats that are out there and there's several of them parked around the different parts of the lake and I know they're out fishing. They're catching that first light fish. They're getting out there enjoying, you now, their pastime before everybody else is waking up and all those other activities start and you'll see the same thing here this afternoon and this evening. You know, some of those activities die down, and all of the fishermen will come out and you'll see the lake covered with boats again as people are fishing and catching that last lake fish and that usually when the strong bite is coming on.

[00:22:00] **Speaker 1** And it's almost like they've learned to share the licks.

[00:22:03] **Speaker 2** They really have. Our lakes associations have done a lot to help with that, you know, protecting things. I know there's different, you know, policies and actions and stuff that they do throughout the state for, you know. Well, this time is allocated for this, activity this time's allocated for that. And, you know, fortunately we don't have to worry about that up here, you know as of yet. Not to say we might not in the future, but You know, people, people do, and they're... They're accustomed to that, they know everybody has their past time, they like to do things, and there's a lot of room out there. You know, we've got 3,300 plus acres of lake out there for people to enjoy, and they can absolutely do that.

[00:22:43] **Speaker 1** So what is it about catching a bar that makes it so much more different than any other type of fish?

[00:22:50] **Speaker 2** I think it is, like you said, you're sitting there and you hear the stories of grandpa and him going out and catching a string or a fish. Like I said, if you talk to anybody that comes to the Northwoods, they think Walleye fish fry. They think about the Wisconsin classic fish fry and doing these things. It's just part of the culture of Wisconsin. Walleye is still that Northwood's fish. They think of it in Canada. They think about it here in northern Wisconsin. Even though you can catch it anywhere in the state, Northern Wisconsin is still known as the walleye place in the states.

[00:23:29] **Speaker 1** Talking about boy, you sir boy

[00:23:32] **Speaker 2** Absolutely.

[00:23:32] **Speaker 1** How much of that is like a key element because there's a lot of places still the fish fry sure it's harder and harder to find a walleye

[00:23:40] **Speaker 2** Yeah, well, we have the walleye fish fry every day. In fact, we serve it for breakfast. We serve it lunch, and we serve for dinner. So the wallay fish fry is absolutely a part of what Lakewood's is. We have for breakfast, we our walleye breakfast comes with eggs and hash browns and all the rest. We got a walleye sandwich we serve the rest of the day. Nice big walleye filet that's on there. We hand bread it, put it on there, and then at night, of course, there's always that Friday fish fry, too. And we serve a couple different kinds of fish, but crusted walleye is one of them that we have on there. We still have our walleye fry that we do, and it's all of it. It's part of our menu, and I talk to all of our purveyors every year. We go through a lot of effort to make sure that, hey, we can still get the larger size filets and stuff that people dream about catching when they're out there themselves to make we have them on the menu so they can see that, so.

[00:24:35] **Speaker 1** Do you think people would be surprised to learn that a lot of that wildland comes from Canada? I think that's the only available...

[00:24:41] **Speaker 2** Well that's not the only, I know Lake Erie has a lot and there's Leech Lake up in Northern Minnesota and stuff where they still do some commercial fishing for walleye. But you know really Canada is where it's at. The different tribes up there, the aborigines that they have up in Canada, they do fish a lot of those lakes and that's where a lot comes from. And that's a lot where we get it too. I don't know, it's not a bad thing. I mean, we can still get the fish, they got the natural reproduction, and they don't have the pressure that they have maybe down here in the states and stuff that allows that those fish populations are there for you to utilize them.

[00:25:19] **Speaker 1** Well, that's why we can still have a walleye dinner, because if there was commercial pressure on Wisconsin's walleye fisheries, then that would be truly unsustainable.

[00:25:28] **Speaker 2** Yeah, absolutely. There wouldn't be walleye fishing, probably anywhere up there if it's like that.

[00:25:35] **Speaker 1** So to walk me through a little bit of like what we're going to see tonight in the kitchen and you said you shopped for the year for your walleye like you're you're already planning out

[00:25:46] **Speaker 2** Absolutely, so every spring and every fall I meet with my purveyors and we work out pricing and quantities and stuff like that to make sure that we'll have the stuff on hand, or the fish on hand. And then we also, you know, we plan that for our meetings and events and groups and things. Is that something we want to offer to our groups and other ones or not based on the availability and what they think they can get for us. We've got to look at it as a sustainable thing as well. And if they're saying, well, the harvests are down this year and everything else, well maybe we'll take the pressure off of some things, but to make sure that it's still available for those people that are coming up here to visit, that we have that.

[00:26:29] **Speaker 1** I mean, I'm sure you have guessed that part of, they come up here for a lot of things, but getting a wall liked in this.

[00:26:36] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. I remember, it was a number of years ago now, that, you know, they were, they're having problems with the harvest and they weren't getting the the size fish that they wanted that we could get in here and I, God forbid, put a smaller filet on the menu and, you know, you would think that I was eating right off their plates, you, know, that the response we got and they're like, well what happened to this? And I said, you know, but you know we had to explain it. We had to put a... Thing on our menu you know to kind of let them know that hey they're not they didn't get the you know the larger fish and you know in terms of sustainability and other things we're making adjustments to our menu to make sure that we can continue to have walleye in the future. Fortunately that changed was only a short one-year you know occurrence and we were able to go back to get the larger size that we enjoy having and and it's been that way since.

[00:27:28] **Speaker 1** It's interesting because obviously we've been working with UW-Stevens Point and their Aquaculture Center. They're part of this experiment. There is a gentleman down in Rice Lake who has an aquaculture center that uses walleye in these tanks to feed his plants. And they're looking at what would it take to expand that out and like one day there might be a commercial fishery for walleye Wisconsin. How different would it feel if we were like, this is Wisconsin walleye?

[00:27:51] **Speaker 2** Now it's Wisconsin Walleye. Yeah, you know, fortunately, we get an opportunity for Wisconsin Walleyes because we can go catch them in the lake. But you know to offer that to our guests and give them that true Wisconsin experience, that would be tremendous. It'd be wonderful. I could take Canadian off the menu and put, you know, Wisconsin Wall Eye on the menu instead of Canadian Walleye, so I really enjoy that. So I look forward to that hopefully coming up in the future.

[00:28:16] **Speaker 1** Part of the story is we've looked at all the different research programs, the DNR, Glyphwik, and universities, and all these different agencies are putting so much effort into studying population decline, climate impacts, and lakes, and harvests. There's a lot of money that goes into this one species. And there's a question to be asked of like, is it worth all the attention and all the money that it's getting to make sure that there are walleyes for the future, that there are going to be walleye opportunities for future anglers and little kids going up and creating.

[00:28:49] **Speaker 2** You know, I really do. I think it's worth, you know, every effort because, again, if you think of, you know, the Wisconsin culture, you think about what really defines people when they think about the state and they think of vacationing in the Northwoods and other ones, it comes up. And I know that the Department of Tourism here in Wisconsin has done different studies, they've done different things through the years, and it does. It comes up time after time after and it really does help define us. And so to take that effort, to sustain that or to keep that around, I think really is important. And it would be if that was lost somehow, I really think it would, we wouldn't be as well off because of that.

[00:29:30] **Speaker 1** And a cropping fish fry just doesn't have the same...

[00:29:33] **Speaker 2** It doesn't have the same ring, but you know, there's nothing wrong with a crabby fish fry. I tell you what, those are some of the tastiest too. So, and, but that's really what's great about the fisheries up here. You know, you can get all the different fish and you know you can go out and you can try to catch your walleye. Maybe you'll catch some, maybe you'll keep them, maybe if you won't. But a lot of times people will say, you know what, I'd just rather have a pan fish fry and go out there and catch those. I know I'm going to get them. I know, I can plan for it rather than waiting until you get enough or if you're, you know feeding your family or something like that. And you can only catch one or two fish. Well, that's not enough to feed a whole family when you go out for fishing, but you can catch enough of the panfish, crappie, or something else that you know you can feed your family if that's what your plan is, is to have a fish fry. So, you can do that right out here and it makes it a great place to come, so.

[00:30:19] **Speaker 1** Anything else that you want to add along these lines?

[00:30:22] **Speaker 2** Um, you know, I don't know that there was a whole lot more. I don't I think we kind of touched on some of the history stuff, a little bit of the fish for the future.

[00:30:35] **Speaker 1** Before we let you go... Some great pictures. I mean, you got some of the pictures and stuff. We want to have you kind of walk us through. We'll go out there and just have you point out some of those. Okay. But before we wrap this up, can I get you to say and spell your name just so I have it correct on my tape? Sure.

[00:30:51] **Speaker 2** Sure, I'm a Philip Charles Rasmussen instead of the Philip August that you've met before. So I'm also a Phil, but I go by PC, PC, and then Rasmusen, R-A-S-M-U-S S-E-N.

[00:31:03] **Speaker 1** All right, and title here.

[00:31:05] **Speaker 2** I'm the owner and general manager.

[00:31:08] **Speaker 1** Thank you so much. You bet. That was great.