

Florida's Exotic Peacock Bass

with Alan Zaremba

D. Roger Maves: [00:00:00] Welcome to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, your source for learning more about fly fishing in cold water, warm water, and salt water. Hello, I'm Roger Maves, your host for tonight's show. On this broadcast, we'll be featuring Alan Zaremba, and he'll be answering your questions on Florida's Exotic Peacock Bass.

D. Roger Maves: This show will be 90 minutes in length. We are broadcasting live over the internet. If you'd like to ask Alan a question, just go to our homepage at askaboutflyfishing.com and use the Q& A text box to send us your question. We'll receive your question immediately, and we'll try to answer as many of them as possible on the show tonight.

D. Roger Maves: And while you're there, make sure you sign up to receive our announcements so you don't miss out on any of our future broadcasts. Just fill out the form on the right side of our homepage, and we'll let you know when the next live show will be. This broadcast is being recorded and will be available for playback on our website about 48 hours after the show ends.

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D. Roger Maves: If you'd share our podcast and when you do use hashtag, ask about fly fishing and hashtag fly fishing. In fact, if you have a moment, do it right now, while you're listening to the show, we'd surely appreciate it. The content of this broadcast is copyrighted as the property of The Knowledge Group, Inc. doing business as Ask About Fly Fishing. When we return, we'll be talking with Alan Zaremba about Florida's Exotic Peacock Bass.

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D. Roger Maves: Before we introduce Alan, I'd like to let you know about the great prizes we have to give away tonight. For our drawing tonight, we'll be giving away a one year membership to Fly Fishers International and a one year membership to Trout Unlimited.

D. Roger Maves: Now, if you haven't registered yet for the drawing, you can do so now. Just go to our homepage at askaboutflyfishing.com and look for the link under Alan's section that says register for our free drawing. Click on that link and fill out the form and we'll announce the winners at the end of the show.

D. Roger Maves: We'll also be giving away a book courtesy of Stackpole Books. Now here's how you can win. You must be the first person to answer the question we ask at the end of the show. The question will be about something that Alan and I have talked about during the show. And then you just [00:03:00] have to submit your answer along with your name and your location using that text box on our homepage.

D. Roger Maves: So listen closely, and use your best typing skills, take notes, pay attention, and all that stuff, and hopefully you'll win that book, courtesy of Stackpole Books.

D. Roger Maves: Our guest tonight is Alan Zaremba. Alan was born and raised in South Florida, fishing the many canals and lakes throughout the area. This led to his professional fishing and guiding career in 1986.

D. Roger Maves: Alan specializes in exotic species, mainly peacock bass, which led to the travel side of his business, which he started in 1997, traveling throughout the jungles of South America. Fishing is and always has been his full time job. You can learn more about Alan's trips at worldwidesportsfishing.com.

D. Roger Maves: Alan, welcome to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio.

Alan Zaremba: Great to be here.

D. Roger Maves: Great to have you. And thanks for, [00:04:00] uh, joining us tonight. Surely, I always appreciate my guests and their vast amount of knowledge. And I know you have a lot to share with us tonight, so I'm looking forward to it.

Alan Zaremba: Well, hopefully I can enlighten everybody.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, that's the idea. Teach us about peacock bass. That's the whole idea. So, you know, tell us about how you got started with fly fishing and peacock bass. I know the history is maybe a little bit longer than the fly fishing part, but yeah, tell us how you got into fishing.

Alan Zaremba: Well, I grew up in Miami and growing up in that area, we had canals and lakes all around where we lived. So it was kind of a natural thing to fall into that. And it's probably what kept me out of a lot of trouble as I got a little bit older. And, uh, I have no complaints. It's been a great life for me. I've got to do exactly what I want to do. And the peacock bass, was just something that I actually was like everybody else. I read a little article in a little paperback magazine that was put out, and I want to say it was 1987. And, um, I was already fishing for [00:05:00] bass and fishing tournaments and stuff like that, but, uh, was not really doing the fly fishing at that time. The fly fishing came along a little bit later, and I admit it, uh, peacock bass are an absolute blast on a fly. You can't go wrong with them. They're, you get everything from them. It's just something I fell into, more or less, but, um, I have no complaints. It's been a great life.

D. Roger Maves: Now, peacock bass are not native to Florida, right? That's correct?

Alan Zaremba: Correct? Yep.

D. Roger Maves: And, um, how do they get in Florida waters? What's the story behind that?

Alan Zaremba: Well, they're native to a number of countries in South America, not all of them, but a good amount of them, especially in the Amazon region where there's a number of different species and that's subject to change there. We don't really know how many there are. There's not been any real conclusive studies.

Alan Zaremba: People will go down and take pictures of them, but it's not the same. They need to be, checked out underneath a microscope to really see the differences, but there's some obvious differences and then there's some that are not. And these fish change their colors as they go that not even our fish here. We have one species here [00:06:00] and they can look different.

Alan Zaremba: One canal system to another canal system. I'm not going to say they're like a. Camouflage or like that, but they adapt to their surroundings and also their moods will create their colors to be stronger sometimes, too. So that's another interesting thing about them as well. But yeah, yeah.

D. Roger Maves: I noticed that in a lot of the pictures, people holding Florida's peacock bass, that the colors are much different.

D. Roger Maves: I mean, they almost look like a different fish at times.

Alan Zaremba: At times they do, and there was some speculation that we had a couple different species. And, uh, but we finally, uh, put that to rest by putting them under a microscope. We had, uh, a gentleman down here went around from, uh, Palm Beach County, which is north of Fort Lauderdale down to south of Miami.

Alan Zaremba: And we've got 200 different samples and they all turned out to be the same. Uh, that's the exact strain they are. We refer to them as a butterfly Peacock, but in reality, they're and I believe they're in the butterfly family, [00:07:00] but in South America, they call them Popoka, the type we have here. And uh, they don't hang with the butterflies that much.

Alan Zaremba: So it's not like they, we don't see them crossbreeding down there or any of that. I suspect they're a relative, a close relative, but they kind of stay by themselves. And ours are different, the butterflies in Brazil and Venezuela are different than what we have here. So but it doesn't matter. They're all great fish.

Alan Zaremba: Every one of them.

D. Roger Maves: And I kind of interrupted you, but I think you're going to tell us how they got to Florida?

Alan Zaremba: Well, that's a pretty interesting story there, and I could probably do a whole show on just how they got here. So, to keep it short, the state did bring them in. There was a gentleman named Paul Schafflin who, uh, they brought in in 1979 to do a study on the waters, and they couldn't figure out why we had all these strange fish in these canals that didn't really belong here.

Alan Zaremba: And his conclusion Uh, he actually did a proposal to, it went through our state Senate and all that bit had to be passed by all the legal people to bring these fish in. They brought them in in 1982, [00:08:00] they spawned them off through, uh, about 84, 1984, and then they, uh introduced 20,000 fingerlings spread across, I don't know, a dozen or so canals from South Dade County, south of Miami up to the north end of Broward County.

Alan Zaremba: And they've spread out since then, and they've done well. So they do come and go as when I say come and go. One winter will be colder than another winter, and they are temperature sensitive. If the water temperatures drop below 60, they pretty much die at that point. At 65, their slime starts to not produce as much, and then they get diseased.

Alan Zaremba: And before you know it, that's how they actually die. They don't die abruptly from the cold so much. It's more of a slower process, unfortunately.

D. Roger Maves: Wow. Oh, so they're pretty sensitive. Now, when did the population become large enough that they became sought after as a sports fish?

Alan Zaremba: Well, it wasn't talked about a whole lot.

Alan Zaremba: It wasn't, you know, I was bass fishing [00:09:00] back then a lot, largemouth bass fishing, and I read a little article about the stocking program, and I was interested, like anybody else, it was, you know, it's a fish, that you could see they were a beautiful fish, so I got my boat, at that point I was living up here in Hollywood area, north of Miami, and went down to some of the canals I used to fish as a kid, and caught my first peacocks.

Alan Zaremba: And more or less fell in love with them. And of course, at that point we didn't know how to fish for them, you know, other than fishing for bass. So there was some, uh, trial and error and it took a long time to really get things down, pat and I actually started, started actually guiding for peacock bass in 89 to give you an idea, 1989.

Alan Zaremba: So that, uh, and the fly fishing kind of came along and I got tired of having people come fly fishing with me. And that be able to show them enough about that. I knew where the fish were. I could put them on them, but I didn't know enough about fly fishing. So I picked up the fly rod. That's how I got into fly fishing.

Alan Zaremba: So it's a

D. Roger Maves: By necessity, yeah.

Alan Zaremba: Well, necessity, but I also enjoyed it. You know, it was [00:10:00] just another way of fishing and I love all kinds of fishing. So don't get me wrong, but peacock bass are definitely my favorite fish. And that's just because they supported a family of four kids and a wife at home. It's been a pretty good life for me. I can't complain.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah. And then the nice warm part of the country.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, well, it's I do not like cold weather. I'm right there with the peacocks. To me, the freezing mark is not 32. The freezing mark is 60. So anything below 60 is freezing for me so.

D. Roger Maves: And is that when the slime starts rolling off your back then, huh, Alan?

Alan Zaremba: More or less, yes.

Alan Zaremba: That's, uh, I've never been a fan of cold weather. And never planned to be. So I will stay somewhere south, always.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, I was talking to my friend in, uh, Oaxaca, Mexico last night, and he says, Oh, it's cold here. It's cold here. I said, what's the temperature? And he said, 68.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, I'm with him.

Alan Zaremba: I'm with him. It's time to pull over. But what do you call [00:11:00] them, the things they wear up north, the underjohns or what?

D. Roger Maves: Oh yeah, long underwear, yeah.

Alan Zaremba: Long underwear, it's time to pull them out when it gets into the 60s.

D. Roger Maves: Ha ha ha. Uh, yeah, the people in Minnesota and Canada, they'd be laughing at us right now. Anyway, um, yeah. The population, is it growing or has it stabilized or is it still spreading?

Alan Zaremba: Well, you know, every year is different, and we had a very cold winter in 2010, and they got knocked back severely, and that was probably the worst cold winter we had that I can remember. I mean, we had a cold one in 2001 as well that hurt them as well, but now 2010 was a really bad year, and though, in saying that, they bounce back very fast, they are very productive, or they reproduce, often

D. Roger Maves: Prolific there.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, it's part of the reason why ours don't get as big as the ones in South America, at least in my opinion, is because they spend too much time in the reproductive cycles, the bigger fish spawn once a year. [00:12:00] Whereas this species here will spawn 2 even 3 times a year, depending on what's going on with the weather. If it's warmer, longer than some will start jumping back up on the beds again. And it's just they seem to know when the time is right. And but, and saying that they only average living five to seven years.

Alan Zaremba: So that's, they just burn out. I think they burn out much faster than the bigger species of peacock bass do.

D. Roger Maves: Uh, can you explain the habitat preferences of peacock bass and where in Florida they can typically be found?

Alan Zaremba: Well, any place south of Lake Okeechobee, most of the canals will at least have some in them. Obviously, some will have more than others, and as you get into closer to the ocean, where the canal waters tend to stay warmer, and you get into Broward County and Dade County, we have what's called a Biscayne Aquifer, which is our natural water supply, and it kind of oozes through the ground, and it goes to the south.

Alan Zaremba: And it goes in about 20 miles in from the ocean and heads [00:13:00] south down to Flamingo, Florida Bay, in that area by the southern tip of Florida. And that keeps the canals warmer than they would be if they weren't. And saying this, keep in mind the canals are all man made. There's not an inch of canal that is not man made.

Alan Zaremba: It's all our way of, we've kind of changed the cycle of Florida, especially South Florida. It's, it's why we can live here. Otherwise, it'd be, you'd have a small strip on right by the ocean that you can live on. Everything else would be swamp. But, uh, by putting the canals in, it drained the areas and enabled them to build.

Alan Zaremba: It's part of the process. It's, uh, I like to call it, um, man made evolution. You know, it's, uh, it's just, it's what we did here. And the reason why, The peacocks can live here and all the other species. We've got many, we've got close to 40 species of non native fish that are reproducing in these canals to go along with the peacocks.

Alan Zaremba: So it's, uh, all kinds of fish from South America, Central America, Asia, you name it, we've got it. [00:14:00]

D. Roger Maves: Now, I mean, we always hear these stories that, that around snakes of people letting pets out from their, you know, aquariums or their, their snake cages. Is that where a lot of these species come from? Or is that just

Alan Zaremba: Probably, probably, I would say probably 99 percent of them were really by people that lived here.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, it was that they're not supposed to be here. It's not recommended. In fact, it's illegal to release snakes, fish that are not native to the area. And it, uh, you're not supposed to be transporting them or any of that stuff. And you can actually get in some trouble if you get caught doing it. But most people were doing it because they didn't want to kill their pets. You know, they had them in their tanks and they just tossed them into the canals.

D. Roger Maves: Some of those probably got too big for the tanks, you know?

Alan Zaremba: Exactly.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Alan Zaremba: exactly.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: And just, and some people just, you know, they don't want to kill them. That's all, which I understand, but it's not a good thing. And though, in my case, it was actually a good thing. I made a living because of what they did.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I know even up North. I think almost every state has laws against [00:15:00] transporting fish from lake to lake or water, you know, any kind of waterway to another river. Yeah, because, well, you got whirling disease, you got these all kinds of things that can be moved and then crossbreeding and stuff.

Alan Zaremba: It's not really a good thing, but, you know, down here, we're kind of used to it. Because not much in South Florida is native when you get down to it. It's all been man made and because of that we're used to having all the strange fish, snakeheads, all that stuff is in here. We've got what's called the tiger bass.

Alan Zaremba: We've got all kinds of things in here. All kinds of things.

D. Roger Maves: Now, do you, uh, inadvertently catch some of those when you're fishing for peacocks?

Alan Zaremba: When you're fishing for the peacocks, especially if you slow it down, we've got Oscars. We've got Mayan cichlids. They will grab a fly in a heartbeat. You won't be able to keep them off a fly.

Alan Zaremba: And I've got some people actually, well, sometimes they want to go out and fish out in the Everglades for a whole day and do nothing but fish for Oscars and it'll bring a four weight fly rod and [00:16:00] I've seen some guys bring a two weight, you know, just because they want to have fun with these type of fish and saying that the Oscars grew up to about two and a half pounds, the Mayan cichlids, about the same, the um, Tiger bass, they're also called a jaguar guapote.

Alan Zaremba: They actually grow up to about three and a half, four pounds. Though most of the fish you're going to catch are pretty small, especially on the fly. If you throw a small fly, you can keep busy all day long. All day long.

D. Roger Maves: I remember the Oscar I had in my aquarium ate everything in the aquarium.

Alan Zaremba: Yes, they are known for that. They are known for doing that.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, cleaned it right out, you know. Yeah, it was amazing how quickly he did that. But, um,

Alan Zaremba: The flies are deadly for him. You can catch a lot of fish on flies down here.

D. Roger Maves: Joe Gallagher, he's in Pennsylvania. Asked what about waterways located in Big Cypress preserve? Do they hold peacocks?

D. Roger Maves: I don't know where that is. So I don't know.

Alan Zaremba: Well, the Big Cypress preserves out to the West. There are some peacocks over on the West Coast down around Naples in that [00:17:00] area. Maybe a little bit up into Fort Myers. They can get up that way. And sometimes they'll get up a little bit further. But then we'll, the cooler weather will move in and it will kill off a lot of them. They can't, it's not like they can just, you know, move to where it's warm.

Alan Zaremba: You know, the cows are pretty much blocked off at one place or another. So, I mean, they can get through them eventually, but that, you know, that, if they're trying to get away from the colder water, they just, uh, it's just unfortunate part of.

Alan Zaremba: What happens, but it also keeps them in check, and it's why they never seem to really get any further north. I've heard of them being caught further up the state some, but I know it's not for long, and it's by accident. Most of the time, and maybe some people brought them up there, transported them up there and dumped them into a lake or something like that, because they wanted them there.

Alan Zaremba: But it's kind of putting them to a certain death. They will. They might even reproduce once or twice. But eventually those areas get too cold and as far as the Big Cypress goes, that area probably gets, in my opinion, would probably get a little too cold just because there's no, you don't have concrete there, you know, there's no asphalt concrete out there.

Alan Zaremba: It's just [00:18:00] open and whatever lakes and canals that run through those areas are going to probably get too cold for him. So I would expect not. You know, but it doesn't mean they can't get there.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. And the Everglades, are they?

Alan Zaremba: Definitely, they're definitely in the Everglades. And I would say, oh, I catch them up an area we call the Holy Lands, which is on the Palm Beach.

Alan Zaremba: Broward County line out west of the Everglades there. They're definitely out there and there's some nice ones out there. I was out in the Everglades today and we caught some nice peacocks along with some largemouth and you know, it's just and by the way, this time of the year to be is probably my favorite time of the year to target the peacocks because you can catch them more on top order. Poppers will work for them.

Alan Zaremba: But to keep in mind when you're working to poppers, you gotta be aggressive. And you got to pop them pretty regularly and make a good pop with them. It's not a subtle pop usually. It's something you want to really pop it hard. If you pop it too subtle, you're going to end up catching Oscars and Mayan [00:19:00] cichlids will come up and grab it there.

Alan Zaremba: But for the peacocks, you want to be aggressive. And when they come up and boil underneath it, you want to keep it popping. You do not want to stop what you're doing. If you stop what you're doing, they will turn and go away. It's the strangest thing. Not to say that sometimes they might hang around, but most of the time they turn and go away.

Alan Zaremba: So you see it aggressive.

D. Roger Maves: So I may not have caught this correctly, but you said this time of year is great for poppers. Is it also just in general best time of year? I had a couple of questions from Jason and Dino about the best time to come down to fish for peacocks.

Alan Zaremba: Well, it's my favorite time to fish for them. That doesn't always mean it's the best time. Okay. It that's just because of the style of bite that you get this time of year. Yes. You can catch some subsurface as well, and when it cools down. fairly good, then you definitely want to go down for them. Yes, you can catch them that way. It's not my preferred way.

Alan Zaremba: Uh, now, I love top water. I think most people love it anytime you get a top water bite going. But, uh, it's saying that if they want to catch the biggest ones, the [00:20:00] best ones, it's usually going to be middle March through April. And, and I say that because that's, then it's sight fishing time. And that's when they go into their spawning, their first initial spawn, which is the biggest spawn of the year.

Alan Zaremba: That's when you get more of them doing it on a regular basis. And that's also when the bigger ones are usually the first ones to pop up and get up on the beds and not that, you know, some people don't like it when you do this style of fishing. Some people love it. I find most fly fishing people do love it.

Alan Zaremba: Okay. I love it too. And I think it's a blast. It's pretty simple. You just got to get the fly behind them. Beyond where their beds at, you want to give it a couple of quick strips through the bed to rile them up and you'll see them attack it. And it's just a question of when they do this, you got to be very ready to set the hook.

Alan Zaremba: And when I say set the hook here, you don't want to lift the rod. You want to strip strike them, then lift the rod. And that's the key. You got to hammer them. Otherwise, they're going to come up and they're going to say, how do T as they're leaving and adios amigos. And as they throw [00:21:00] that fly back at you, if you don't get a good hook set, they're very, very good at shaking their heads and they'll jump out of the water and they'll spit it right back at you, but they're fine. Yeah, those are probably the two favorite time of the years to catch him that way. But saying that you can catch him throughout the year unless it's really brutally cold out, which does happen sometimes on those days.

Alan Zaremba: You're probably best not to go after them, but, uh, you know, try something else. But, well, in those type of days, we don't get them too often, but when you do get them, it's probably very cold out, and it's very windy usually, and unless you want to get beaten on the head with a fly, because they do hurt when they hit, so, especially on us, especially on the back of the head.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: But, uh, that's not the normal. That's an exception. That kind of happens. So you can catch them year round. Summertime's more of a mixed bag, just to give you an idea there. There'll be some on the bed. They have a secondary spawn that's fairly strong, not like the one in March and April. Uh, and it's saying that summer in May can be pretty good too, further north.

Alan Zaremba: The northern canals tend to be [00:22:00] better in May, is what I find. I just kind of move my way up from Miami up and, uh, fish up into the Palm Beach area, which is, uh, the third county up from, second county up from Dade County, I should say.

D. Roger Maves: Okay, uh, Alan, we need to take a quick break here, but when we come back, we'll be talking with Alan more about Florida's Exotic Peacock Bass.

D. Roger Maves: The Ugly Bug Fly Shop in Casper, Wyoming has been serving fly fishers in Wyoming and around the world since 1983. Their selection of top of the line gear and a huge assortment of flies is one of the best in the land. All products are available in their fly shop and online. Looking for advice? Just give them a call and their expert professional staff will help you with whatever you need.

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D. Roger Maves: You're [00:23:00] listening to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, and we're talking with Alan Zaremba about Florida's Exotic Peacock Bass. If you'd like to ask Alan a question, go to our homepage at AskAboutFlyFishing.com, and use that Q& A text box to send us your question.

D. Roger Maves: We'll receive your question immediately, and we'll try to answer as many of them as possible on the show tonight.

D. Roger Maves: So, Alan, I always ask my guests, you know, what's going on in your fly fishing world? Tell us a bit about your, your businesses, it sounds like, and what you're doing in South Florida.

Alan Zaremba: No. It's, I've been doing it for, what, 36, 37 years now, I guess, so I've been at it a long time, and of course started off with just the guiding. But, uh, then I branched over into going down to South America, and I visit Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia. I seem to go everywhere just about, uh, oh, Uruguay, I can't forget that because there we go for golden dorados, which is another great fish to catch on a fly too, by the way, and, uh, which is, oh, there, you talk about setting the hook, you got to really set the hook on those [00:24:00] guys, they got lots of teeth in their jaws, so it's, uh, something you have to work with there, but that's probably my second favorite fish behind, uh, peacock bass.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, and where can people find out about your business? Uh, what's your website?

Alan Zaremba: Well, my website is WorldWideSportsFishing.com and they can get a survey of what I do and all the different trips that I run in different areas. I also go to the Bahamas and I go to Alaska and also do some trips in Panama and Costa Rica.

Alan Zaremba: And those are some really nice areas to fish to not all of them are fly fishing, but some are, you know, a good amount of them are and the peacock bass in South America can be caught on a fly as well. It's just you got to use a little bit heavier tackle and you've got to be a little bit better prepared.

Alan Zaremba: And that's something I guess I want to talk about too is with the leaders we use. Even before I, that's something we'll talk about that a little bit, but there's so much to go over with this.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. [00:25:00] Um, so again, it's worldwidesportsfishing.com . So,

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, that's sports with an S with an S at it at the end of the sports, but you can see the prices for the general prices of the trips that they run and they go anywhere from, oh, 2500 to how much you want to spend.

Alan Zaremba: I mean, there's, you know, you can spend a while on fishing as we all do.

D. Roger Maves: What about if people want to hire you as a guide in South Florida?

D. Roger Maves: Same place? Can they get a hold of you?

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, the best way to do that, you can do it off the website there too, but you can also call me at 954 609 3671, and that's the best way to get a hold of me here, you can text me as well.

Alan Zaremba: If I'm on the water, I admit, I don't answer the phone real good, so you're best to leave me a message, but I suggest everybody to text. I see that a lot better than, sometimes the voicemails don't go through, so.

D. Roger Maves: Can you give us your phone number again slowly?

Alan Zaremba: Okay. 954 609 3671.

D. Roger Maves: There you go, folks. [00:26:00] So if you're looking for Alan to guide you in South Florida, that's how you get a hold of them. And I

Alan Zaremba: Happy to take them out.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, we ended getting some questions here on the Internet to Roy Fukushima. He's out in Orange, California. Where in Florida? Do you guide

Alan Zaremba: Most my guiding goes from North Miami up to Boynton Beach, which is in Palm Beach County and out into the Everglades. Along, uh, alligator alley, Tamiami trail and those areas.

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Alan Zaremba: That's where some of the best peacock fishing is, and, and I've got some very isolated canals. One in North Miami, I have a key to a gate. Nobody else gets in there. And I have some other canals. I drop a couple, I have two different boats. One's a gheenoe 16 foot gheenoe and the other one's a 20 foot sea chaser flats boat, which is great for fly fishing out of because it's got a big front deck on it. And I like to use that. I can put two people up there and literally, uh, if they can work together, because that takes a little bit there too. [00:27:00]

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah. Phil in Kentucky asks, what parts of Florida would, should someone go to in order to find large peacock bass?

Alan Zaremba: Well, in all honesty, large peacock bass, to catch one over eight pounds here is pretty rare. They do happen, but most of them are going to be under eight pounds. So, it depends on what you consider large. It's like, I get people that ask me, what's a trophy fish? Well, trophy fish is what you consider a trophy.

Alan Zaremba: You know, some people I've seen some people, you know, do the measurements for a three pound fish. And I've seen some that want to catch at least a five pounder. And I get some that want to catch a 10 pounder and I tell them it's fine, but it's going to cost you probably about 5,000 more to catch that one. You got to travel a little further away too.

Alan Zaremba: So I am a little sarcastic sometimes. I like to have fun with that, but I say it in a joking way, and it is what it is. I mean, our species just can't grow that big. Have they caught them over 10 pounds? There's been a few caught. But that's it's so rare to really see one [00:28:00] that big that just doesn't happen.

Alan Zaremba: I don't want to mislead anybody that way.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, a lot of them look pretty darn big and photographs, but it also

Alan Zaremba: They're all great.

D. Roger Maves: How long how long the arms are of the person that's holding it.

Alan Zaremba: Well, that's that's there's certain ways you could take pictures with a camera that do make it look bigger. For sure.

Alan Zaremba: I don't like this extended arm too much because it starts to look too obvious, you know, sometimes, but that's okay. I understand people are excited. And that's that really that's what it's about. It's about us getting excited.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah. Um, I mean, you kind of talked about this, but Tregg asked specifically. He's from Idaho. He says, do they escape the canals and get into other waterways?

Alan Zaremba: Well, all the canals are pretty much hooked up. Okay, so, as far as other waterways goes, that would, the only thing that we have here that's other waterways would be, uh, lakes and stuff like that. But even most of the lakes are underground, hooked up to it.

Alan Zaremba: Our [00:29:00] canal system is also our flood control. And it's also why you don't ever hear south Florida on the East Coast ever really having any major, major flooding. Yes, we do get some flooding sometimes, but it doesn't do like your rivers do in Colorado and North Carolina, like what happened here just a couple of weeks ago.

Alan Zaremba: That doesn't happen here. We don't get raging rivers that are coming over the banks or anything that oozes over the banks when that happens. But we get a big rainstorm. They open the gates, let the water out.

Alan Zaremba: Peacocks also could take a little bit of salt too. So, I mean, I've heard of them being in brackish waters being caught and that I don't generally fish any brackish waters, but, you know, I've got many regular canals as far as I don't. I'm not sure.

Alan Zaremba: You know what he means by that, but there's really no other places for the fish to go other than our canals and lakes.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Now you do have that like intercoastal. So they're not in that because that's brackish or salt.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, that's even more salt there. I don't think they can really survive that well in there.

Alan Zaremba: They wouldn't do that, well, not to say [00:30:00] that they couldn't, they might survive for a while, but it just, you know, there's a lot of factors involved that would, that could possibly change that. But the intercoastal, I don't think so. I've never heard of being caught there.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, but so like, you can be in a canal and Fort Lauderdale as a fish and make it down to.

D. Roger Maves: Hollywood through the canals, Miami,

Alan Zaremba: There's floodgates and the only time they can really move from one to the other. That way would be when they open the gates to let water out. Most of the time that water is open to let it out to the ocean or just going to the intercoastal that way. And those fish are strong enough. They don't really get carried away with it. These waters are not moving that fast for the most part. I mean, they might move 5 miles an hour and if any, all these fish can deal with that very easily. .

D. Roger Maves: Okay. Okay. So when the gates open, they might, if they swim upstream, they might get on the other side of the gate and that may take them to a whole new area.

Alan Zaremba: Well, that's, uh, that's also some of the pluses because we have saltwater fish that when the gates open, let water out [00:31:00] certain saltwater fish like snook and tarpon and, uh, Jack Crevel, uh, even ladyfish and another fish we call a big mouth sleeper. They will come up into those canals looking for food. And that's how they get landlocked and they end up in, we, that's how we catch what we call freshwater tarpon. They're not really freshwater tarpon, they just get, they get locked in because it'd have to be by the gate when it opened up to get back out. And,

D. Roger Maves: uh Mm-Hmm,

Alan Zaremba: They will catch tarpon sometimes 30 pounds, you know, on a light tackle or, you know, on a light tackle or a fly rod. That's a blast.

D. Roger Maves: Oh, they're fun at that size. Yeah. Yeah,

Alan Zaremba: Yeah. And snook too.

D. Roger Maves: They're a blast.

Alan Zaremba: We get some big snook sometimes in the canals, over 20 pounds. So it's a pretty good size. You just don't know what's going to bite in these canals. It's very unique.

D. Roger Maves: What about lakes? Are they in the lakes, or just in the canals?

Alan Zaremba: No, they're in the lakes too. Most, any lake down here has them. Again, the lakes are kind of, most of them are hooked up to some of the canals as well. And, uh, [00:32:00] that's how they can move around, and they do. So that's just, uh, you know, and of course now the lakes are a little bit more subject to weather, as far as cold temperatures.

Alan Zaremba: If we have some severe cold for a while, that can stop it, and stop the fish in those lakes sometimes. I've seen a lot of kill loss in the lakes at times.

D. Roger Maves: What, um, you know, when my daughter was going to University of Miami down there, and, um, I was eyeing these, all these lakes on golf courses and on actually on the, uh, university campus.

D. Roger Maves: I kept wondering, are there any peacocks in there? What's in those lakes?

Alan Zaremba: There probably is. I mean, uh. Initially, originally the peacocks, they tried stocking the peacocks also back in the mid 60s. It failed miserably. And that's where they did stock them was in golf course lakes. And the problem with golf course lakes is, number one, they're not that deep usually.

Alan Zaremba: And number two, the Biscayne aquifer does not flow into them. And because of that, those [00:33:00] waters were cooled down. We also had a very cold winter, I want to say it was 65 or 66, or maybe it balanced into both years. And, uh, they did not survive that. And so that's why in, in the late 70s when they realized we had all these other fish popping up in these canals, that's how that all came about.

Alan Zaremba: And his conclusion was, if they were put in the canals, Where the aquifer fed into, it keeps those waterways about five degrees warmer than they would be if it was in a lake. And that's what enabled the peacocks to get established. And because they're also very prolific, they reproduce a lot. They're going to expand from that alone.

Alan Zaremba: And that's what happened. But they get knocked back. So every so often, every few years, we'll have to kill off one way, one place or another, because the water temperatures just got too cold for them.

D. Roger Maves: Now, going back to when they were first stocked, uh, the first stocking, the second stocking, this was, they were put in to control the other fish that were,

Alan Zaremba: Correct.

D. Roger Maves: Uh, non natives. Okay. [00:34:00]

Alan Zaremba: That was the thought. Yeah, because they eat fish.

D. Roger Maves: Eat what?

Alan Zaremba: 95 percent eat fish, to some extent. But you know, the hurricane Andrew, I'll tell you what it probably put the biggest control on was the spot at Tilapia. Some of the African Tilapia that we had in these canals that probably did the biggest damage on them, which is really what they were intended to do.

Alan Zaremba: The Mayan cichlids came along later. Hurricane Andrew is what really caused the Mayan cichlids to get loose. There were some farms, some, uh, I don't know what kind of farms you call them, but they were growing them for the aquarium trade business, and the farm got wiped out by the hurricane when Andrew went through, and they got loose, they got into the canals, and the Mayan cichlids now are up to Lake Okeechobee.

Alan Zaremba: In fact, they could take a little bit colder water than the peacocks can. So they're good for about 55 degrees. Oscar is about the same. Some of the other fish are in the low 50s. Snakeheads are good for about 50. The snakehead variety that we have here. There's different types. Those [00:35:00] are northern snakeheads and ours are called, uh, Bullseye snakeheads, which are from South, Southern Asia.

D. Roger Maves: Okay. Okay. Now, is Florida the only state in the U. S. where you'll find, uh, peacocks?

Alan Zaremba: In the mainland U. S., yes. Now, they are also in Puerto Rico, and they're also in Hawaii.

D. Roger Maves: Oh, really? In Hawaii? Wow.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, there's some lakes there. They've been, actually, they've been in Hawaii longer than they have in Florida.

D. Roger Maves: They must have got stocked there as well, because

Alan Zaremba: Yes, they did.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, all originated in South America basically, or Central America.

Alan Zaremba: Well, South America for the peacocks, they were not in central, they are in Panama, but they were not native to Panama either. They were definitely a South American fish that, you know, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Suriname, gosh, Guyana, there's a number, you know, those the Amazon basin and a little bit further south of the Amazon in southern Brazil, south of the Amazon.

[00:36:00] They have a peacock. That's called a blue peacock, which is another gorgeous fish. They got all their fins are all got a bluish tint to them. Top bottom everything.

Alan Zaremba: And then they have 5 bars on them. Whereas have like 3 partial bars on ours, half bars.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah, I think it's this month's National Geographic the whole Issue is devoted to the Amazon Basin.

Alan Zaremba: I'm gonna have to get that. That's I find that interesting.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. A lot of interesting things. I mean, it's such a whole different world down there just how these fish live and so forth. And the people were, you know, And some months of the year, the fish are swimming through what used to be branches on the trees where the birds were perched, you know and couple years later.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, dry. Now, some of those rivers will change will go up 40 feet.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, incredible.

Alan Zaremba: They flood over the amount of water that flows in. Down there is absolutely incredible.

Alan Zaremba: And I know they say the Amazon is disappearing and all that bit, but [00:37:00] I could tell you I've been in a float plane flying over the jungle for five hours and not see anything but broccoli heads and snaking rivers. The broccoli heads being trees. So it's pretty big place.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Incredible. Incredible. Well, listen, I need to take another quick break here. But when we come back, more about the Peacock Bass.

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D. Roger Maves: Okay. Let's see where we're at here, Alan. Um, is that, Dino in Florida wrote in and asked are there seasonal differences in where they are and what they eat?

Alan Zaremba: Not really. The only differences is when they spawn, they still eat, but they only eat close by and they eat fish. Though that time [00:39:00] is there's that much fish around them, they probably would eat a lizard or something like that. It does happen once in a while, but majority of the time they eat, 95 percent are going to eat fish.

Alan Zaremba: So that's why you want. a bait pattern like that's why I tend to lean on clouds or minnows form when I'm going down below as far as poppers go and I think that they're in that case they're hitting the noise.

Alan Zaremba: I don't even think I'm convinced it's more just aggression on their side that gets their attention but they obviously they will eat it they don't I don't think they know what it is but they're they're charging I know everybody takes a lot of pride tying their poppers and flies and stuff like that but simple is actually pretty good you don't have to be real fancy with the flies.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah. Chuck in Placerville, California asks, Do peacock bass spawn during the same time frame as largemouth Florida bass? And are there any specific Florida regulations regarding peacock bass?

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, get to the regulations as far as keeping peacock bass. You're allowed to keep two per day, per angler, [00:40:00] and one over 17 inches.

Alan Zaremba: That's the general rule. They don't want to, they'd rather you throw the bigger fish back because they're better at protecting their young and all that, but though at this stage, they're so well established. I don't know that really matters anymore. And they just have left it that way for all these years.

Alan Zaremba: That's the way it was when they first, first told everybody about them that, you know, first couple of years, they didn't let anybody keep them. I think it was 1989 when they started letting people keep two. As far as that goes, uh, yeah, I don't remember the rest of the question you asked me there, but I got going on that.

D. Roger Maves: Well, sticking with the regulations, well, uh, side benefit is, are they any good to eat?

Alan Zaremba: Actually, they're pretty good to eat. Though, though, there's two ways of looking at that. Because I grew up in this area, and I've seen how the water gets treated by people. I've seen, you know, we have sewage lines that run across the canals.

Alan Zaremba: I've seen those sewage lines leaking. I won't eat anything out of the canals, unless it's maybe out in the Everglades. Out there, I'll keep some. There's just, you know, you see all the nice green yards. They put a lot of [00:41:00] fertilizer.

D. Roger Maves: Nitrogen. Nitrogen. Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: Uh. And so I'm not, I've found that the fish in the city canals tend to have a, to me, a muddy flavor to them.

Alan Zaremba: Uh, if I catch them out in the Everglades, I keep a couple every once in a while. I'm not, I do love fish, but believe it or not, I love saltwater fish to eat. So,

D. Roger Maves: Me too.

Alan Zaremba: I'm not big on the freshwater fish, but they are edible and they're not bad for you in all honesty, within reason. You know, I think if you ate them all the time, maybe something might happen. I don't know. But again, we have a lot of green yards, very green and it's nice that we have them, but there's a reason for that because we don't have great oil down here. Or, you know, there's, it's, you dig down a couple of feet and you're on rock. That's it. That's what you got. So, you know, it's, it doesn't, things don't grow that great as far as that goes. So they fertilize the heck out of it.

D. Roger Maves: I'm like you I like saltwater fish to eat and uh,

Alan Zaremba: Snapper, Grouper.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah I'm in trout country and I got everybody's go. Why don't you keep in your fish? No. No, I don't really like them that much

Alan Zaremba: Does [00:42:00] anybody keep trout anymore? I'm, not even sure i've I don't even I never hear of anybody actually keeping trout to eat anymore.

D. Roger Maves: Oh, some people do.

Alan Zaremba: Do they? I fish for them once in a while I go up north and I've done my share of fishing up there and fly fishing up there for trout too and in alaska. I love it It's it's another great Fishery.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Well, there's a lot of areas that are put and take, you know, they stock them. And of course the stockers don't taste nearly as good as the wild ones. So, but people do that, you know, they take their kids out and, you know, that's fine. You know, that's why they stock them. So, but, um, yeah.

D. Roger Maves: Uh, the, the other part of that question was the peacock bass spawn during the same timeframe as largemouth.

Alan Zaremba: Well, that's a good question, and I'll explain this. The largemouth, our largemouth don't spawn in South Florida.

Alan Zaremba: Let me put it this way, in South Florida, our waterways rarely ever go below 60 degrees. So there's nothing that triggers them. You know, up north, the fish will spawn because the water warms up to a certain temperature. Well, it never gets that cold here. So [00:43:00] our largemouth kind of starts spawning when the waters actually start cooling down some.

Alan Zaremba: Is what I found, and that can happen in October, November, but it, they're spawning, our largemouths will spawn through May. You'll find some spawning from October through May. Now, they don't all spawn at the same time. Now, maybe up in Lake Okeechobee, it's more, there's a better pattern for it there, but I don't fish up that way anymore.

Alan Zaremba: And, uh, um, you know, so I don't see that here. I find largemouths spawning anytime. Almost, anyway. Now, peacocks, I've found them spawning every month of the year. If the weather allows for it, it just depends. If we have a stretch of four or five days, if the temperatures are in the 80s, and even in January, and we have some 80 degree days, it will trigger a spawn in some of the canals.

Alan Zaremba: You'll start to see the peacocks start to spawn. So, but they do have a main spawn is usually middle March through April and more northern canals might be in May. So you just have to adjust a little bit, but I find I can almost go find some spawning [00:44:00] any time of the year.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Alan Zaremba: I answered the question well.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, no, no, that makes perfect sense to me. I did an interview with Debbie Hanson up in, uh, you know, she's up there around, uh, Tampa St. Pete area and she specializes in largemouth bass up there. So that makes sense, which you said, you know, further north, they can grow bigger, you know, spawn up there, uh, because the temperatures are right up there so.

Alan Zaremba: It's funny you say that too, because the old theory was peacock bass, the hotter, the better. I found that's not true. Okay. The hotter months doesn't make any better. Their temperature range is just smaller. What happens when the waters get too warm, the oxygen levels start to come down. When the oxygen levels come down, all fish start to slow down some.

Alan Zaremba: So that's why, you know, I just, you know, there was a theory that was put out there. I think writers in the early years were looking for stuff to write about, something new, you know, to sell articles and I'm not knocking them for it. I [00:45:00] understand. And it sounds good, but the truth is that's not the truth.

Alan Zaremba: It's I actually like this time of year as the waters cool down, the peacocks start schooling up more. You get more activity. Now, when the peacocks are schooling up, the largemouth start schooling up. We start getting, you know, it just gets, we get more active waterways, which makes for better fishing. Even though this year, our water levels out in the Everglades right now are so high, it's pushed some of the fish out in the back areas and in the marsh areas, which has made the fishing a little bit tougher that way.

Alan Zaremba: But like today, we went out and we caught some nice peacocks in the canals and, and some nice largemouths, too. So, I mean, we caught largemouths up to four pounds. So it wasn't giants, but they weren't bad, you know, especially on top water.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. And it's, um, I haven't looked at the latitude of where these peacocks live in South America, but, um, evidently down there, there is that sweet spot of that temperature range is, is more prevalent down there than in Florida.

D. Roger Maves: I guess Florida is probably a little Further north [00:46:00] of the equator than than those areas down itself.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, well, they're on the they're on the equator there and there. It's more about water levels that controls more of the, you know, if you go in the rivers themselves, the rivers themselves down there, the water is actually quite cool.

Alan Zaremba: It's in the low mid seventies, which is it's cool for there. Let me put it that way. It's cool for here are canals to some extent, but because of that, you know, they don't spawn in the rivers. They go back into the lagoons to spawn because the lagoon waters are gonna be warmer than the river waters are.

Alan Zaremba: And there's just lagoons everywhere down there. It's an amazing fishery down there. It's just an amazing system. I mean, it's hard to believe how big it is, how vast it is. I'd say the Amazon is probably the equivalent of at least half the United States.

D. Roger Maves: It's about, uh, they showed that in National Geographic, an overlay of the United States. It's, they're about the same size. Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: Is that okay? So I'm even being shy on it there. You know, cause, it's true, Brazil has the biggest part of the Amazon, but the other countries all have parts [00:47:00] of it as well. You know, so it's, it's huge. It's huge. It's huge.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. It's incredible. Okay. Let's switch now for a moment to equipment.

D. Roger Maves: What weight rod and what type of line do you use for the peacock bass?

Alan Zaremba: Well, I'm very basic, okay. And for a number of reasons down here, we make a lot of short casts and with short casts. You don't want your traditional leader setups for, you know, you have. You're downsizing it and going up to the smaller. Here, I use I use a straight piece of 20 of and I don't use fluorocarbon.

Alan Zaremba: I use monofilament straight 20, 5 foot section. That's all I want. And the reason is you're a lot of times, especially when it's site fishing time, you're throwing clouds or minnows form to get down into the areas at that point. You, clouds or minnows don't cast very traditional. So, it's not like you're fishing for a trout with an egg or something like that, where you just kind of, you're rolling it over to get into the areas and letting it float to the fish.

Alan Zaremba: Here, you want to get directly on them with it. So, you want something that you can be [00:48:00] more direct with. It's very untraditional. When I get the traditional trout fishermen, they struggle sometimes, to get used to what's going on. But once you're getting used to it. then you'd figure it out, it's all good. It's a different ball game and because you tend to make a lot of short casts, you don't want a lot of leader hanging out, no matter how you go about it.

Alan Zaremba: Because it's just, you're going to get hung up in trees and somebody's yard. You might catch a Rolls Royce driving by or something like that. There's all kinds of things. And I have seen some crazy things that way. And you will lose that battle with a car. That much I know.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Alan Zaremba: I've seen that happen a few times before.

D. Roger Maves: I've, uh, yeah, I've done that with a bird down in Belize once, but not the car.

Alan Zaremba: Birds can do the same. Yeah, no, it's a crazy fishery down here. I mean, it's, you're fishing behind a lot of people's houses. There's stuff that you're happy to see, and there's other stuff you wish you had never seen. And then, you know, there's, another question I get asked a lot, is it a good place to go fish off the banks?

Alan Zaremba: And there are places you [00:49:00] can fish off the banks here. But, but you gotta be careful with where you go because unfortunately some of these canals go through some rougher neighborhoods and if you're parked there you could end up getting a lot of friends and uh, you don't want those kind of friends.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah, you have to be a little careful that you can also if somebody's looking for a map they can actually get a hold of myfwc.com which is our authority down here that regulates the canals. Uh, for a wildlife commission, and they will, uh, they can get you the maps. You can get them off online. So you can actually get a map of a lot of the canals where these fish were put in initially.

Alan Zaremba: And that's a helpful thing there, but even in those, they'll tell you to be careful where you're driving. And where you park.

D. Roger Maves: Also, I suppose you may have issues with private property. You have to watch out for that, right?

Alan Zaremba: You definitely do. You definitely have to watch out for that. And some places you cannot go into and you'll see signs all over the place.

Alan Zaremba: And they almost feel like it's anti fishing around there. And sometimes I feel that way too. They've actually, unfortunately shut down a [00:50:00] number of canals over the years, just because of some of the problems they've had with, with people dumping stolen cars and stolen boats and, you know, and just leaving their, trash all over the place.

Alan Zaremba: They've shut the areas down, unfortunately, but there's still a lot of fish to fish.

D. Roger Maves: The place for the maps is myFWL.com?

Alan Zaremba: MyFWC.com

D. Roger Maves: C.com.

Alan Zaremba: Yeah. FWC.com.

D. Roger Maves: MyFWC.com

Alan Zaremba: M Y. Yes. Yes. It's pretty simple and that's also they can get their you do need a freshwater fishing license down here. The boat can't buy.

Alan Zaremba: You can't buy one for a boat in freshwater. So they do have to want to fish. That's something to remember to you do need a license and they do check. They will. They do patrol not so much the waterways. They patrol more from the land. That's where they get, that's where they get most of their tickets written.

Alan Zaremba: So, that's something you want to, want to be careful about too. They're very easy to get now. They've made it very easy. So, you, you can get one online. You can call in and get one that immediately. [00:51:00] You'll have it good. They'll give you a set of numbers and you're good to go.

D. Roger Maves: Now, Tregg in Idaho, ask, is there any current in the canals?

Alan Zaremba: Sometimes a lot. And right now there's a lot because we've had a lot of rain this year, though we have, it seems like we've had a lot of rain many years in a row now. So it's, we've got no shortage of water. Yes, we have problems with water here, but that's not that's because there's too many people. You start putting too many people in the area. That makes it harder. But yes, there's always water moving, especially this time of year when we've had a lot of rain.

Alan Zaremba: The Everglades canals, there's a lot of water moving there and I still catch them in the canals, but I tend to look for areas where the water will back up. Is there's like an eddy area or a cut that goes into the marsh areas, or then the other areas would be go around bridges, pilings, structure, lots of structure, and they will relate to structure, whether it's a car in a canal or a body in the canal or something like that.

Alan Zaremba: I'm being a little smart aleck there, but

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah you're going to scare people off now.

Alan Zaremba: [00:52:00] No, no, I have found a couple of bodies over the years. It's going to happen. We have like 1500 miles of canals. Go through South Florida. So things happen and it's not always bad. Sometimes, you know, sometimes it is, but sometimes it's not.

Alan Zaremba: Sometimes somebody actually died on the canal. It happens.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Well, we kind of got sidetracked here, but let me ask you 1 more question on canals and we'll come back to equipment. Treg also asked, are the canals navigable in public? You already said they've closed some canals off. I guess, gate them or something, but in general, can you go wherever you want on the canals?

Alan Zaremba: Well, yes and no. I mean, there's, uh, there's many ramps, especially out in the Everglades that you can access the waters out there. That's much easier out there. City canals, there's ramps. Some of them are not very good. I've got some of their dirt ramps. I've got one place I put in. I actually jumped the boat over a sidewalk.

Alan Zaremba: And, uh, [00:53:00] and put it in a canal there and I get people that look at me and they think I'm nuts, but it puts me in an area where that many people fish and I always find that places that don't get fished as often have what I call more stupid fish, and I'd rather fish for stupid fish than educated fish. So,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. okay.

Alan Zaremba: They haven't seen a whole lot of lures or flies or poppers and that fish are just a little bit happier to go after things better than

D. Roger Maves: Sure, sure, Okay, what right weight rod and what type of line do you use? That was my question. 1st, we don't I didn't get an answer to that.

Alan Zaremba: Okay. Well, I told you what leader I like to use because 1st of all, I don't like losing fish 1 for my clients then 2, I do that because. Like I say to some of these people, I realize, you know, you want maybe to drag down to the line to go out and all that bit, using a lighter line, but you could do the same thing with a heavier line. I just, you just lose less flies this way. And poppers, you can get to them a little bit easier, you can pull them through the pads a little bit [00:54:00] easier, and all that stuff.

Alan Zaremba: So, as far as an actual weight ride, my favorite is a 6 or a 7 weight. That kind of covers everything. You can go five weight. Uh, the peacocks, you start going down the four weight rods. The peacocks will dictate pretty good to you at that point, especially if you get one that's three pounds or so. So it's, it's, uh, I don't recommend a three pound.

Alan Zaremba: Or, you know, real light line for that matter, or light rods, two lights. If you're fishing for Oscars or Mayan cichlids or that stuff, a two weights fun, you know, if you can throw it, I can't, I'm not good with a two weight. Okay. I, I have my heavier ones. I like a little bit better, not real heavy though.

D. Roger Maves: So, what type of line? Floating line? Tropical floating line are you using?

Alan Zaremba: That depends. Again, for the, um, poppers, obviously you want a floating line, and you don't want a fluorocarbon leader at all on that, because that tends to drag the poppers down, and you won't be able to get the good popping action out of it. The action is more what they're hitting.[00:55:00]

Alan Zaremba: It's just, you know, if you can make a good sound with it, if you can make a good gurgle, a gurgler's will work also, worked aggressively. You know, especially around pads and stuff. On the girdlers,

D. Roger Maves: But now mice,

Alan Zaremba: I'm sure they would work. I don't generally fill in the mice that we use. We use for snakeheads usually because they tend to like that stuff.

Alan Zaremba: And there you're going to want a lead guard for those because you're filling right up into the weeds for those fish. The peacocks are usually going to be more in the open or right on the edge of the weeds. So they'll come out and hit it. So you don't necessarily need a weed guard for that. So it wouldn't hurt, I guess, you know, it just, and I do like a little, I don't like the real small hooks.

Alan Zaremba: Some people like to use really tiny hooks. I generalize it just a one, one, one, something like that's going to be fine.

D. Roger Maves: Okay. Okay. And then what about when you have to go deeper? Do you have to use any sinking tip or are you still good with the floating line?

Alan Zaremba: No, it does make a difference. I've seen it before. I had a story. I had a guy come down and fish with me [00:56:00] once and we changed him over to a sink line. Not real heavy, but like an intermediate type sink line. And he was, that helped him keep the fly more flat. You know, I haven't thrown a clouser. You just don't want to pop up as much. You want it to stay more level.

Alan Zaremba: And that allowed him to catch more fish. He came back with a buddy of his, I don't know, a year later, he didn't tell his buddy about that. And so he's catching fish and his buddy wasn't catching fish, which I thought was a little cruel, but you know, I guess there was some competition involved there.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: I don't make those rules. My job is to find the fish and tell them where to throw. But, and in that case there, sometimes you have to strip them really fast. And I've seen some guys do the two hand strip and that'll work pretty well for them as far as that goes. But then there's some days where they, they will hit it slower sometimes.

Alan Zaremba: So it's just a matter of getting in their face. And after, of course, when they're spawning, then it's a matter of being in their face, period.

Alan Zaremba: So it's, it's, uh, you're just getting around them.

D. Roger Maves: Tregg, uh, asked, do you use a bite tippet?

Alan Zaremba: [00:57:00] No.

D. Roger Maves: No.

Alan Zaremba: No.

D. Roger Maves: Just the 20 pound?

Alan Zaremba: If I'm using 20 pound, that's, that's sufficient. And if a snakehead, by chance, comes up and grabs it, they do have teeth. But I found 20 pound to be sufficient most of the time. It's not

usually a problem. I mean, you could put more on there. But the more you put on there, the more problematic it becomes with the trees. And, again, we do make a lot of short casts.

Alan Zaremba: So the short cast, you don't, you just don't want that much out there.

D. Roger Maves: Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Um, just had a question come in again about your website, wanting to know your website address. So can you share that again, Alan?

Alan Zaremba: It's [www.WorldWideSports](http://www.WorldWideSports.com) and it's with a S, fishing.com.

D. Roger Maves: Okay, there you go, whoever, uh, anonymously asked that question.

Alan Zaremba: Okay, that's fine.

D. Roger Maves: Uh, what about kind of knot that you use to connect your flies?

Alan Zaremba: Okay, now, if I'm fishing them off the beds, I will tie an improved clinch to it, to a clouser minnow. [00:58:00] I want everything to be direct in that case. If I'm trying to be more pleasing, I will tie a loop knot. Form nothing. It's still not fancy, but it, uh, I used to, you used to read them on the Rapallo boxes years ago.

Alan Zaremba: I don't think they do any of that stuff now, but it showed you how to tie it. It's just basically a square knot. You go through the line, goes through the cleat, comes back and goes through the square knot. You create it. And then I try and approve clinch at the end of that. to bring it together. Now, it's easy for me, but it's amazing how some people struggle with it.

Alan Zaremba: But I'm sure you could look it up online. And these days, we've got YouTube and Google and everybody else. There's just something to show you how to tie it. So the Internet's great. And that's so great, depending on how you go about it. But if you need something to find out something, there's a lot of information out there now.

D. Roger Maves: Oh, yeah, it's amazing.

Alan Zaremba: In tying knots.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah, definitely. Uh, time for another quick break and then we'll be back in just a moment with Alan and Florida's [00:59:00] Exotic Peacock Bass.

D. Roger Maves: Fly Fishers International needs your support. Its conservation projects at both the national and club level are addressing critical issues of importance to fly fishers.

D. Roger Maves: The organization provides grants to help with the restoration of habitats like Wolf Creek in Idaho and Sands Creek in Delaware County, New York. And funds projects that collect valuable data about fish and their habitats, like the peacock bass study in Miami, Florida.

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D. Roger Maves: For more information, go to their website at [01:00:00] flyfishersinternational.org. Again, that's flyfishersinternational.org.

D. Roger Maves: You're listening to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, we're talking with Alan Zaremba about Florida's Exotic Peacock Bass. If you'd like to ask Alan a question, just go to our home page and fill out the form and send it in and we'll try to get an answer tonight on the show.

D. Roger Maves: Okay. All right. I think we handled the questions on equipment, food and flies. We've kind of answered some of these things, but I want to make sure we've got it covered. One of the questions was, what do they feed on? You said primarily fish. And are they more active at certain times of days than others when they feed?

Alan Zaremba: I like to call them the anytime fish. I've seen them schooling up at daybreak. I've seen him in the middle of the day schooling up. I've seen him late evening just before it gets dark. Get active. I basically to me, it's the [01:01:00] anytime fish at nighttime. They pretty much go dormant. They're like most tropical fish.

Alan Zaremba: If you see him in an aquarium and you turn the lights out, they kind of go into a corner and they kind of hang out. And, uh, the peacocks basically do the same thing, unless they're on the beds, then they stay by the beds. But even then, the beds are usually fairly close to the bank edges. Uh, unfortunately, in, in South America, some of the locals that are out there, and they're indigenous people out there, and that's how they, they eat, they will get a floodlight, and they will shine it in the water, and that's how they find their fish.

Alan Zaremba: And they spear them. It's unfortunate, but, you know, they don't do enough damage in all honesty, but if you're in an area where you've been catching fish, it's probably not good when you see them out there with the floodlights at night. And they're also spearing other, other tropical fish too, but I hate to see it when I see him get the peacocks.

Alan Zaremba: They're pretty much dormant at night. I, you know, discussing that with the biologist for the state, which I became good friends with over the years. And I got a lot of good [01:02:00] information from them in the beginning. And they actually have called me up many times over the years asking me questions about things too.

Alan Zaremba: So that's when you get kind of known for what you do. It's an interesting, uh, thing that way.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: But they basically said to me that maybe on a full moon clear sky, they might do a little bit. I've also heard of them eating underneath bridges that were well lit up at night.

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Alan Zaremba: You know, there's a lot of lights and stuff like that. So, you know, it's it's I'm going to go by. It's just a light thing there. And that's that's when they do most of their business.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Um, What are some of your favorite fly patterns and why? I know you've mentioned the Clouser, which it's amazing how good that fly is everywhere in the world, isn't it? I mean.

Alan Zaremba: Sometimes I hate to even talk about it so much, but that's it's a winner. It's a, all Clouser came up with a great thing many years ago and, and, uh, it's been copied thousands and thousands of times. I heard you talk about the Puglisi fly, earlier,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Alan Zaremba: Which I think he makes a [01:03:00] great fly to and his flies, especially in the Amazon work very well.

Alan Zaremba: They do work here too. And I've got some clients that tie that with the synthetic material and they're excellent. They last longer. They're really good flies. So, uh, I believe in those as well. Another one would be the, what do you call them? The half and half and then, of course, uh, I think you might have mentioned game changers or somebody asked about game changers.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah that's later on.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, Jason Kentucky asked about game changers. Yeah,

Alan Zaremba: They do work for him as well. But the basic thing is to stay aggressive with them. If it's moving and being active, they're gonna tend to go after it. And the other thing is, when they come up underneath it, or you see him chasing it, don't stop. Don't stop.

Alan Zaremba: I mean, you might give it a quick pause and sometimes they'll hit it that way, but most of the time they want it moving. So I just tell people to be very aggressive with their flies and, and whether they're fly fishing or with lures or whatnot, just be aggressive. And if you want to take out all your anxieties, this is the perfect fish for you.[01:04:00]

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah, that's interesting, though, you know, other fish, they'll take it on the pause, you know, as it drops and then funny how, yeah, they're all different. And yeah,

Alan Zaremba: But sometimes peacocks will too. I mean, I've seen peacocks from dancing around the fly before you'll see him. You'll be pulling it back.

Alan Zaremba: You'll be stripping it back and you'll see him come up behind it. Then he swims around and from the other side and we'll come in from the front and hit it. So, I mean, they get pretty wacky on stuff. Sometimes.

D. Roger Maves: Are, you mentioned weed guards for the snakeheads? I think, cause you were fishing into the weeds there. Are they necessary for peacocks?

Alan Zaremba: Not so much. I don't really like them for the peacocks, but that's okay. That sometimes you're around weeds. I mean, fish like weeds, part of the problem. Going back to way back when they first brought the peacocks in, part of the problem was the largemouth populations weren't that great in the canals all the time.

Alan Zaremba: Some canals that had weeds did, but our water management people, their job is to keep the canals running free and clear. Which I understand, but sometimes they go overboard [01:05:00] and they will strip the canals of weeds. And largemouth bass do not do well when you take the weeds out of it. Peacocks, where they're native to, you don't find that many weeds down there.

Alan Zaremba: Weeds are not the big deal in the Amazon. There's trees and stuff, but the weeds, because a river might raise 30 feet or 40 feet, when it's coming down, it's ripping everything out. So, you know, nothing can survive. Peacocks are used to that kind of thing. That's their native habitat is now a whole lot of weeds.

Alan Zaremba: So they can survive well in that. So that's why they could feed on the tilapia. That's really the main reason I brought them in. Oscars in that bit were not as big of a problem back then, uh, as they are now, we actually, they will explode. Sometimes you'll get in some, some years we'll have a ton of Oscars out there.

Alan Zaremba: Another year would be the Mayan cichlids. Another year it's the Jaguar reptiles. The peacocks are steady out in all these places, especially on the Himalayas. So the city canals are good too. It's so hard to get to all of them.

D. Roger Maves: You mentioned size of the flies. What about [01:06:00] color? Is that of any importance or?

Alan Zaremba: Well? I heard a story many years ago, and that was if it ain't chartreuse. It's got no use No, I don't really know if that's so true, but I do like chartreuse and white I like chartreuse and white. I like red and white. I like red and yellow. I've seen some other patterns I like a peacock pattern where you put the bars on them I mean once again, I think lures and flies are made more for us than the fish, the fish are eating.

Alan Zaremba: They're going to eat pretty much anything that's moving some flash. Sometimes doesn't hurt to have some flash in the in the flies.

D. Roger Maves: Okay. Okay. Okay. So some of these questions I had a question about the mainly fish from shore or the boat sounds like all your fishing is pretty much from the boat.

Alan Zaremba: 99 percent is boats. Yes.

D. Roger Maves: And Dino, you asked about shore fishing. I think we pretty much covered that earlier. Um, okay. Question. How do you approach a new body of water when targeting peacock? What are the 1st things you look for and you've been doing [01:07:00] that so many years structure? Okay.

Alan Zaremba: So, yes, I do know most all there's that many panels. I've not fished at this stage of the game, but I would still go by the basic tool is structure, which would be bridge pilings, rocks, big boulders, points. I would tell you, you know, lily pads and stuff like that, except like you got in the Everglades, there's lily pads everywhere. So that's not always a great tool to go by.

Alan Zaremba: Sometimes you look for a break in a lily pads in that case. There's so many. So, you know, but structures, any kind of structure, I kid when I say cars and shopping carts and stuff like that, but they are in the canals, especially in the city canals, you'll find lots of shopping carts, you'll find tires under the water, Uh, unfortunately, batteries and stuff like that.

Alan Zaremba: And yes, I once had a joke about a, there's this Jeep out in Blue Lagoon Lake down in Miami, and his Jeep was upside down, and we found peacocks spawning on the driveshaft. You know, [01:08:00] by the way, the peacocks do not spawn on soft territory. Their eggs have to adhere to the surface. So they will brush an area off, and their bed is only maybe six inches by six inches.

Alan Zaremba: They make a lot of eggs. They don't put a ton of eggs down. That's why I think this species only will spawn a couple times a year is because they don't do it. They put down about a 50 amount of eggs than a largemouth bass does. And they also will guard their young up to two months after they hatch. Both the male and the female stay full time with them.

Alan Zaremba: And that's why I think part of the reason why ours don't get as big, you know, is this particular species survives by reproduction. You know, reproducing much more than the others do the others, though, in that sense, are more susceptible to pressure compared to ours. Ours. They're here forever. Unless we have an ice age.

Alan Zaremba: Ours are here forever. They're not going to ever leave these waters are, I guess, if the waters rise up over the banks from the ocean, saltwater might kill them off. But that's most [01:09:00] are exotics are here forever. It's just part of our system.

D. Roger Maves: With what you just said about the beds and the spawning activity. You don't, you still don't have a problem with fishing or fish near the beds. I mean,

Alan Zaremba: Well, here's the deal. What I found is as long as you release them quickly, I'd say at least 75 percent of the time they go back to the bed.

D. Roger Maves: Right away.

Alan Zaremba: And, and yes, they're very good about that. You might not see them right then. You go away for a little bit, come back, you'll see them back over there again.

Alan Zaremba: And you can probably catch them again. I won't do that. You know, that's why I draw the line there. And if I got a lot of them on the beds, I won't, I'll try to only let somebody fish for one

of them. You know, so that makes it a little better that way. But in saying that, all these years I've been doing that, I've not hurt their populations.

Alan Zaremba: And there's a lot of other guys that do this now. There's a lot of people that fish for them now. There are well known species down here now. And there's a lot of locals that fish for them. But, you know, and they do the same things. Not all of them, but a lot of them do. Probably the thing that might hurt them the [01:10:00] most is once they've hatched and they're guarding their young, I do not like to fish for them then.

Alan Zaremba: And the reason is because other fish will come in and will

D. Roger Maves: Eat the young. Yeah. Yeah.

Alan Zaremba: They'll eat the young. To me, that's more susceptible and does more damage and people will catch them accidentally. You know, they don't know that they're guarding their young just because they're fishing. That's unfortunate, but that's part of it. And they still survive.

Alan Zaremba: So, you know, they've done very well down here. It's been a very successful program. And, uh, as far as we go, you know, and of course I'd made my living all these years. I was 36, 37 years of fishing, uh, primarily for peacock bass. I've made a living at it, and I still can put people on fish, and it's, you know, what makes me happy.

D. Roger Maves: Now, sight fishing versus blind casting. Are you sight fishing most of the time, or is this like a half and half kind of thing?

Alan Zaremba: It's, well depends on the time of year. This time of year, I'm not doing any sight fishing. There's no reason to. They're out and about. They're chasing. [01:11:00] I sight fish because people want to catch fish. They come to me to catch peacock bass, and if the majority of them are spawning, they're not out chasing. So you have to go in and find them. And it's unfortunate that way in that sense. But as long as you're good about it and you get them back to the water quick, they're going to go about their business.

Alan Zaremba: I let people take a quick picture. You know, it's an office is a big one. Unfortunately that big one might not go back because they're going to keep them out longer. But in saying that, I've still not heard them. They've done very well. There is no decrease that from what we're doing. The biggest decrease might be from the water getting poisoned accidentally or something, you know, or

D. Roger Maves: So the only time you're yeah, the only time you're sight fishing is if they're on the beds. Otherwise, you're blind casting and yeah.

Alan Zaremba: I do a lot of that, especially if I feel like you do top water. I mean, they're a ball to catch on top water. They come up and they hit with such vigor that it just, the cats meow for me. I mean, anyway, so.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, and we pretty much talked about the retrieval. You said whether it's a popper or [01:12:00] a streamer of some sort is just keep it moving, right?

Alan Zaremba: Yeah.

D. Roger Maves: For 99 percent of the time it's

Alan Zaremba: And not a steady move. So it needs to be a erratic move.

D. Roger Maves: Okay,

Alan Zaremba: It's uh, you know, it's not something you don't want to just strip it back straight to the boat or a popper. You don't want to just drag it across the top. You want to pop, pop, pop. Now what I will say I've noticed sometimes like with the clouser down below.

Alan Zaremba: I've seen many times people, the fish actually rips after it when they go to pull it out. Pull the fly out to make their cast. You'll see that fish flying after. And so sometimes if I see that happen often enough, I will tell the people, all right, act like you're going to pull it out. And right before you go to pull out, stop.

Alan Zaremba: And that fish is coming after it so hot. And so, so much that he can catch to give you an idea. They are a fish that I can, if I'm using a spinning rod or a bait casting rod, you can figure eight them. If they come in hot after a lure, which they do sometimes, you leave out, it's not a gentle figure eight.

Alan Zaremba: It's a violent figure [01:13:00] eight. I'll do it like three times violently. So the water is thrashing and then I pull it straight out and you'll see the fish nail it. I've got, I've done it with riders on the boat.

D. Roger Maves: Muskies fishing.

Alan Zaremba: Yes, but a little bit more violent of it. It's not a slow figure eight. It's a, it is a violent figure eight.

Alan Zaremba: It's weird. It keeps our attention on it. There's just a, there's something about the sound that keeps them going.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Now, before the show, when we were talking, you talked about hook set. You want to talk about hook set now?

Alan Zaremba: Strip strike, strip, strip strike, strip strike. So I'll say that a hundred times.

Alan Zaremba: And if you're used to trout fishing, unfortunately, You're not going to want to you could try to hit them really hard by setting up that way, but let's face it when you the power and a fly rod is not in the rod tip. The power and fly rod is in the base. Yeah, yeah, correct. And that's where you get your power from.

Alan Zaremba: And that's a strip strike. If you lift the rod up in any way, it's going to be a softer hook set. And yes, you [01:14:00] can get away with sometimes, but I've watched a lot of big fish put that fly back at us and admittedly work hard to get that fish and it hurts to see that happen but, again.

I've gotten much better about how I handle that. I used to my early years, uh, when I was in my thirties and that bit, I, I push people sometimes a little too hard. Maybe as you get older, you realize that is that the way to do it. And if it happens, you just go find another fish, do the best you can.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, well, it's hard to break old habits, you know, if you've been doing something for 20 years and yeah, and you go from fresh water to salt or for peacocks, do they have a hard mouth?

Alan Zaremba: Yes,

D. Roger Maves: They do. Okay.

Alan Zaremba: Similar to a largemouth, but they do a lot of head shaking where, you know, largemouth does not shake their head as much as these guys do. And they come out, you'll hear their gills flapping when they come out of the water when they're jumping.

D. Roger Maves: Wow. And what's the fight like, they jump?

Alan Zaremba: A lot of a lot of head shaking mixed in with some jumping. Some days they jump a lot. Some other days [01:15:00] they don't jump a lot. I don't know the answer to that. I'd like to be able to tell you the answer to all those things, but I don't know the answer on everything. I do know that one day they'll do it one way. Another day it's another way and And I don't know why.

Alan Zaremba: You just, like anything, you go out fishing, you try to figure it out. If I have two guys fly fishing, I'll have one fly fishing with a popper, and one fly fishing with a deceiver, or a plowser, or Puglisi fly. You're going down below, you know, to try to figure out things as fast as you can, so that you can make the day more productive.

D. Roger Maves: And what's the best way to fight them?

Alan Zaremba: Oh, keep pressure on them. Don't, uh,

D. Roger Maves: Down low?

Alan Zaremba: No, I mean, you can bring the rod up. I just don't want it straight up. Straight up is never good. Line gets soft. You want to keep that line tight. That's the main thing is you want to keep that line tight, however you do it.

Alan Zaremba: And what I've noticed is it's no different with people casting. Some people cast better than other people. Sometimes it doesn't matter. Sometimes the fish are more active. Sometimes you got to be more perfect. There's no exact science to any of this. You go [01:16:00] out there and you do the best you can and then hope for the best.

Alan Zaremba: And some days it works really good and other days, uh, some days I got a friend of mine or one of my clients who says, some days you're the bug and some days you're the windshield. And my thing is some days you're the, you're the bug with the windshield wipers on full blast, smashing in, you know, so it's just, but that's just the way it goes.

Alan Zaremba: I mean, it's, it's just, there's so many different things and just can't get too upset with yourself and things don't work out and things don't go well. I have to remind myself of that too sometimes. So.

D. Roger Maves: Well, very well, well, Alan, unfortunately, we're out of time and but, uh, we need to wrap things up here, but stick with me.

D. Roger Maves: We're going to be giving away some prizes and I want you to help me determine who the winner is and so forth. We're going to be giving away a one year membership to Fly Fishers International and a one year membership to Trout Unlimited. And we're going to be giving away a book courtesy of Stackpole Books So stick with me for just a couple more minutes and we'll finish things up here.

Alan Zaremba: Okay [01:17:00] sounds great.

D. Roger Maves: The bonefish and Tarpon Trust works very hard to safeguard the future of our beloved flats fisheries from protecting spawning sites threatened by unsustainable fishing pressure to securing historic funding for It's funding to restore Florida's Everglades and estuaries. Thanks to their members, they've expanded their conservation to the Bahamas, Belize, and Mexico.

D. Roger Maves: There's still much more work to be done and they need your help. With your support, they can ensure that the flats fishery is healthy and sustainable now and for generations to come. Visit btt.org and become a member of the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust today. Again, that's btt.org.

D. Roger Maves: And just a quick reminder to everyone before you leave the website tonight, please take a minute and give us your feedback about the show.

D. Roger Maves: You can find the link on our homepage in the section under tonight's show that says, What did you think of the show? Just click on the link and leave your comments. We'd really appreciate it. But now it's time to give away our prizes. The winners for our drawings are randomly selected from the show's registration database.[01:18:00]

D. Roger Maves: If you didn't register for tonight's show, it's too late now, but make sure you register for the next show so you don't miss out on, uh, some of these great prizes we have to give away. And let me get here to where I need to be. But if you are one of the lucky winners, uh, we'll contact you after the show and get the information from you so that you can collect your prize.

D. Roger Maves: So, for Fly Fishers International and let me I'm a little disorganized here. Give me a second and it's my right page here. I got. So, uh, all right. So.

D. Roger Maves: For Fly Fishers International, or looks like our winner is Matthew Demayt, Demayt, Demayt in Texas. So, uh, Matthew, congratulations. I'm happy you won that membership and I know you'll enjoy it.

D. Roger Maves: And if you don't have a membership and you didn't win [01:19:00] tonight, go out to flyfishersinternational.org and check them out, flyfishersinternational.org

D. Roger Maves: Okay, let's see for our Trout Unlimited membership, we have Nathan Dettingmeyer. Nathan Dettingmeyer in Alabama. So congratulations, Nathan. Now you have a, you're a Trout Unlimited member. So we'll contact you after the show and get you guys all set up.

D. Roger Maves: Now we'll give away a copy of Alan's, I mean, a copy, a book from Stackpole Books. Sorry about that, folks. And you'll just have to answer my question here. And let's see, what do we got that's good?

D. Roger Maves: Um, that might be too hard. Anybody? Okay, how about this?

D. Roger Maves: Uh, Alan mentioned a number of species that are non native. He gave a specific number. I mean, and it's about [01:20:00] number, but he only gave one number. How many species are non native in Florida?

D. Roger Maves: So, nope. You didn't wait till I asked the question, Tregg. He answered the question and I hadn't even asked the question yet.

D. Roger Maves: Uh, let's see. Yeah. Yeah. Well, you know, some of them like that. Um, it looks like Charles Card from Dutch John 40, he says. Was that the magic number, Alan?

Alan Zaremba: That was the magic number.

D. Roger Maves: Okay, Charles.

Alan Zaremba: That was correct.

D. Roger Maves: Okay, you are the winner there, Charles, of a book from Stackpole. I have several that I can offer you.

D. Roger Maves: So, um, I will send you a list. I've got your email here and I will send you a list and then you can pick. From that list, which book you'd like to have and I'll ship it out to you.

D. Roger Maves: So, um, thanks [01:21:00] everybody for paying attention and playing and listening tonight. Really always appreciate that.

D. Roger Maves: Alan, really appreciate you staying up late there on the East Coast and uh, sharing all your knowledge with us.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah, it was lots of fun for me too. And I know it was for everybody else, but um, stay healthy down there, keeping those uh, peacocks healthy for us when we come down and uh,

Alan Zaremba: We'll do.

D. Roger Maves: We'll get to fishing again. All right.

D. Roger Maves: Hopefully you've all found the pot. Sure. Hopefully you've all found the podcast archive on our website.

D. Roger Maves: If you haven't, just look for the link on the top line menu. In that archive, you'll find all of our past shows, over 400 shows. You can search by any keyword and, uh, find probably what you're looking for. So, uh, check it out. I'm sure you'll, uh, be, uh, surprised at what you discover.

D. Roger Maves: Our next broadcast will be on November 6th, 7 p. m. Mountain, 9 p. m. Eastern Time. On that show I'll interview Bart Lombardo, and our show is Passionate About Panfish. Bart is a professional guide in New Jersey and is passionate about panfish. Catch the excitement. Join us to learn the best tactics [01:22:00] to hook these lively fish, from selecting the right flies to mastering the presentation.

D. Roger Maves: Bart shares his top secrets from years of experience. Be sure to add this upcoming show to your calendar. Just click on the Add the calendar button below his picture on our homepage and you'll be all set. You can add it right to your calendar.

D. Roger Maves: We'd like to thank Fly Fishers International, Trout Unlimited, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, Olympic Peninsula Skagit Tactics, Ugly Bug Fly Shop, Enrico Puglisi Flies for sponsoring our show tonight.

D. Roger Maves: Don't forget to visit our website at askaboutflyfishing.com and make sure you're signed up to receive our announcements so you don't miss out on any of our future broadcasts.

D. Roger Maves: Thanks for listening to Ask About Flyfishing Internet Radio. We hope you enjoyed the show. That's it. Good night, everyone, and good fishing.