Smithsonian Folklife Festival Interview

John Anhold

Regional Forest Entomologist & Tree Pathologist

Dutch Oven Cook/Woodworker/Triathelete

Flagstaff, Arizona

February, 2004

Interviewer: Karen Fiore

(John Anhold standing outdoors)

John Anhold (JA): Welcome. Hello. My name is John Anhold. A-N-H-O-L-D. And today is February the 12th, 2004, and we're in the Sedona area. Behind me you can see Bell Rock. We're here on another gorgeous day.

A little bit about myself. I come from a family of foresters, a couple different ways. My father was a forester; a recreation staff person when he retired from the Forest Service. He started with the Forest Service in about 1962. So they say I probably have green underwear. That term kind of comes from members that have a history of brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, those kind of things, in the Forest Service. And also my wife is with the Forest Service. It's kind of been an interesting juggle of the careers but we've done I think fairly well.

So yes, I've moved around the country. My dad started with the Forest Service in Salt Lake City, Utah. There basically five or six years; then went to Arkansas, then off to Georgia, then up into Virginia. And that's where my father Mel retired. And that's kind of where I started thinking about forestry.

We've always been a kind of outdoorsy family. Loved camping, that kind of thing. And I remember distinctly, it was my junior year, kind of getting ready to go into the senior year, starting to think what am I going to do next—colleges and that kind of thing—and I started telling my dad, I'd really like to get into the natural resource field, get into forestry. And he thought that was a neat idea, but he wasn't so sure that would be a good thing for me. If nothing else, it was tough to get jobs. So he said, "John, go get The Washington Post." So I went off and got the Sunday edition of The Washington Post, about two pounds worth. And he said, "Well, look in the Classified section and see how many jobs there are for foresters in there" And I'm going through the Classifieds, looking for foresters or arborists, or anything that has to do with forestry or natural resources, and there wasn't any. And he said, "Well look over to the engineering. Look for some engineering positions." And there were dozens of those. So he kind of talked me into actually, when I got into college, take a couple math classes, and kind of get prepped up in math and those kind of things, and pursue that for about half a year, and then finally said, no, this is not me. I don't want to be doing drafting things and punching calculators. I want to get out in the woods and do stuff, and make a difference with our natural resources. And so early on I determined that I really like to get out and do things and interpret the natural resources.

And so at that point I was going to a university in Virginia—James Madison University—and they didn't have a forestry program; and so I thought, hey, it'd be neat to go to school where my dad went. And that was at Utah State University. And so we made some phone calls, and dad actually knew some professors that were still there and in the department, and in a year or so I took off and went to Utah State. That kind of started the whole thing for me.

Like a lot of folks that get in to the Forest Service, I had summer employment, and worked for a number of different forests in the West, basically in Utah, getting a feel for just exactly where I wanted to be. And one of the summer jobs that I had was with what they called forest health protection. A small branch within the Forest Service. They did a lot of work with forest health issues, insects, diseases, those kind of things. And what really appealed to me with that job, or that kind of job, was, there was quite a bit of travel within the region. So you get to see a lot of sights, you get to see a lot of different issues, you get to talk to a lot of different people about their concerns about forest insects and diseases and forest health. And after that summer job I said hey, I'm going to focus on the forest health side of things in college. So I got my forestry degree and then got involved with the master's program that dealt primarily with forest insects.

So I got a forest entomology kind of emphasis masters at Utah State as well, and within about a year—I was really lucky—within a year got a job offer with the Forest Service as a forest entomologist in Durham, New Hampshire. And so I was in Virginia, went to Utah and really started an education and getting some background, then went back to the East Coast and became a forest entomologist in the New England area. So spent about two and a half years there.

At that time, had met my wife in college and we married, and then actually went to New Hampshire. And Linda is also very active in the outdoors and had worked in positions with the state and those kinds of things with forestry, and was much more interested in the fire realm of the Forest Service and natural resources. So all of a sudden you had this kind of disturbance couple. I do a lot of things with disturbance with insects and diseases; and Linda's into the fire and fire prevention and fire ecology and those kinds of things. So we went to the New England area and I had a full time position and Linda came and got actually a temporary position. And within about three years we were starting to put in for jobs back West—that was really kind of our love—and ended up moving back to Utah, Region Four, and I transferred to another forest entomology position. Linda came along and then she got into a permanent job there. So it really worked out. And spent about ten years in Utah, working on all kinds of things, and then finally decided, hey, we had a couple kids and they were starting into school—first grade and kindergarten, those kind of things—and we wanted them to experience a little different culture, and decided, let's go south, and we both ended up getting positions in Region Three and landed in Flagstaff, Arizona. Nice small town. College atmosphere. So that's where I'm currently located as what they call the zone leader for the forest health protection group, and now Linda has a job as a regional fire ecologist. We're both regional office employees but stationed in Flagstaff. I need a drink of water.

[Break in filming. Filming re-starts with JA standing in same location.]

JA: Ready to go?

Karen Fiore (KF): Ready to go.

JA: And so just a little bit about what I do specifically. It's I think one of the more interesting jobs within the Forest Service, in that we do have an opportunity for quite a bit of travel. So I am, as I mentioned, a forest entomologist in Flagstaff, and our group are essentially the forest entomologists-- who deal with the bugs-- and the forest pathologists-- who deal with tree diseases-- for the government. So our primary responsibilities are with the Forest Service, because we are Forest Service employees. And the Forest Service has the biggest chunk of forested land. So we do an awful lot of work with the Forest Service, and our office encompasses an area of all of Arizona.

There's five national forests that we deal with here in Arizona. And then we also do work with folks like the Indian reservations. And in the Southwest there's a number of tribes. We do a lot of work with the San Carlos Indian Reservation, and the Fort Apache, and the Navajos, and the Hopis. And then the Park Service, where the forest entomologists and the pathologists for the Park Service are. We're dealing with the folks up at the Grand Canyon National Park. And I've been trying to [arrange] some kind of noxious weed thing, where I can get a boat trip down the Grand Canyon, but it hasn't panned out. But there's a number of national monuments; the Chiricahua National Monument down in the southeast portion of the state that we've helped them with some of their tree mortality issues there. And the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Defense, basically any government agency that has forested land. So it's very interesting to deal with the different personalities at the different forests, and then you kind of go beyond that and you start dealing with tribal groups and elders, and all of their very different connections with the land; and then into the Park Service, where there's a lot of preservation.

You know, there's a whole array of different philosophies and directions that these different agencies are going. And you know, the bugs and the crud don't care about boundaries, and they're everywhere. And right now in Arizona and in the Southwest, we're in a drought. We're in a drought period, and it's caused a lot of forest health concerns. We have a lot of trees dying from the drought, and trees dying from being stressed and attacked by bark beetles. And so it's not only occurring on the Forest Service land or on Park Service land; it's occurring on private land, and state land.

And kind of as another spin-off to what we do, we help fund, and work very closely with, the forest health specialists with the state. And they have a program that's very similar to ours—it's probably a little smaller. They're charged to help not only the state governments, such as the state lands department, but also with the private citizens. So they'll actually come out and discuss the forest health issues, or individual tree issues, that state agencies might have or a private citizen might have. So it really gets in to all the forest health issues in our area, whether it's state, private, or federal.

There's a little bit of travel. Sometimes that can be hectic, especially when you have a wife that travels quite a bit, and you have a family, and those kind of things. But we're good at it. We know how to schedule, and we really enjoy just getting out and dealing with people, and opportunities to be at different sites and those type of things. So my office is up in Flagstaff, and I'm here in Sedona.

And one of the reasons I'm here in Sedona is that there's a national meeting that's occurring. It's called the Forest Health Monitoring Meeting. And basically what this group does is, they monitor the forests. All forests; state lands, private lands, federal lands, whatever it is. A very unique group. Essentially there are at this meeting I think over forty different states represented, from Alaska to Hawaii to Florida to the New England area to the Lake States. And then also the Forest Service and a couple other federal agencies. There's roughly two hundred people. We're quite proud of that number because at the last

meeting there was like a hundred or so. So it's doubled in size. I think there's a lot of reasons, plus we're here in Sedona, it's gorgeous. Everybody wanted to come here; it's a little warmer and stuff.

There's a lot of forest health issues that are occurring across the country. I just mentioned the bark beetle issue and the drought issue in the Southwest. But there's really a lot of bark beetle and other disturbance agents occurring throughout the West, and throughout the East as well. A lot of defoliators and those types of things. And one of the things that is becoming more into the public eye all the time is noxious weeds or invasive species. So this group deals and talks a lot about that. How do you monitor those, and what do you do with some of these invasive critters that come on packing material from different countries? Everybody knows about the gypsy moth; that was an introduced species and it's caused a lot of problems. And Dutch Elm and those kinds of things. But there's just been a myriad of introduced species that have come into this country and we're always dealing with those.

So it's really kind of unique to have this group here, and they wanted to come to Sedona and Flagstaff and this area just because of the drought and the huge impact that we're seeing here. They wanted to see it firsthand, and we're quite proud to have them. I need a break.

[tape jumps here]

KF: …because that's cool. And tell the story about the canoe, and if I get to interview your wife she can tell it again.

JA: Yeah, okay.

KF: I mean, if that's okay. Because it's a good one…

JA: Yeah, she's got a couple of good parts of that.

KF: So, um, [inaudible], are you ready?

JA: Yep.

KF: [inaudible]

JA: Well, the Forest Service is certainly a big part of my life, but it's not everything that I do. Besides my children and my wife, I do have a couple hobbies. One of them is woodworking, and I kind of got into that somewhat at any early age. But when Linda and I went up to New Hampshire to start my career, and her career as well, I said, there's just so many lakes up here, we've got to be doing some canoeing. And I'm one of those people that like to get in, and if I see something I think I can actually do a better job of making it myself. So I made a couple cedar strip canoes in our apartment in New Hampshire, and had a nice sixteen-footer, and then made another one that was a little smaller, kind of a one person fourteen-footer. And I got those built, and Linda and I just enjoy going out and canoeing. Did a lot of canoeing up in the Adirondacks while we were there. And then as we migrated back West, not quite as much water, so those have been collecting a little dust.

Also do furniture; make quite a bit of furniture, and made our kids some nice oak and cherry desks, and drop-front tables and those kind of things. And so it really kind of gets me back to the forestry and using wood and getting my hands on stuff, and those kind of things.

Another hobby that I've kind of picked up over the last eight years or so is Dutch oven cooking. Probably many of you do not know, but in Utah the official state pot is the Dutch oven. And so plenty of ovens to purchase, and so I have a whole array of ovens and do quite a bit of that. Not only camping, but we do the Dutch ovens right at the dinner table. So it's kind of a neat thing, and my father's gotten really involved with that, so it's something that we kind of do together.

We're I guess you could call us somewhat hobbyist elk hunters. We go out and have a lot of fun. If we actually harvest an animal that's all the better. It's a big camping trip where my dad and, I've got three other brothers, we all get together annually, and it's a big camping trip. We do a lot of Dutch oven cooking and storytelling, and you know, it's kind of this male bonding time and getting out in nature. So it's really nice. It's a time that I can kind of unwind and get back into the woods and nature and those kind of things.

So other hobbies: I'm an avid runner, biker, swimmer. Like to do triathlons. Actually this weekend I'm going up to Grant, New Mexico and do a quadrathlon, where I'll bike, run, put on some skis, ski a little bit, snowshoe to the top of Mount Taylor, and then turn around and come back and do it all again. I always say I do that stuff to stay in shape for elk hunting, and people kind of get a kick out of that. But Flagstaff's kind of a perfect location for that 'cause it's high elevation—seven thousand foot. Our office is housed right up on the campus of Northern Arizona University, and one of the benefits is you have access to a lot of the athletic equipment, and they have real nice fifty-meter pool and so forth. So that's another kind of life-long hobby that I have, and that kind of thing spreads, and with the family we do a lot of hiking and get the mountain bikes and do those kind of things.

KF: And you make furniture.

JA: And I make furniture. I have a brother who's a cabinet maker, he's a custom cabinet maker, and he's kind of my supplier of fine oaks, and maples, and walnuts, and cherry. One of the things that happens at elk camp is that I always put in an order. He brings out a bunch of lumber and we slide it out of his truck into my truck. So it keeps me well supplied.

KF: I have a question.

JA: Yep.

KF: That comes out of American forests?

JA: Yep, typically that lumber is harvested on adjacent forested lands a lot of times, so back there at the George Washington, Allegheny Mountains. My brother Mark lives right in the Shenandoah Valley. A very avid hunter, fisherman as well. And my brother Dave is into those kind of things as well. So I kind of grew up with that whole outdoor kind of atmosphere and enjoyment.

KF: Let's talk some more about your Dutch oven cooking. What are some of the recipes you like to use?

JA: We have quite a few Dutch oven recipes that we like, all the way from Dutch oven pizza to the standard cobblers that you often hear about, to some chicken enchiladas, and you know, you can do the nice chili in Dutch ovens. Linda, my wife, has actually won a little award, she reminds me every now and then, about kind of a Dutch oven cook-off at the Ogden ranger district that those guys do. Kind of an end

of the year party. They get into small groups and plan out a dish, and everybody competes to see who's got the best-tasting meals and the best desserts and those kind of things. She often reminds me, as I'm packing up my Dutch oven to go off to elk hunt or camping, that she truly is the award winner and maybe I can learn from her someday. But it's really kind of a fun thing that [blown a few steps backward] -- Whoa. Little on the windy side— that not only Linda and I have gotten into, but also my dad and a brother have gotten into Dutch oven aspects. Historically that's what a lot of the settlers used, in terms of cooking. Very durable pots, and once they get a nice season on them it's just like cooking with Teflon. Basically just scrub them out with hot water and you're ready for the next meal. You can make some really nice biscuits in a Dutch oven. Nothing like a nice Dutch oven dinner on a fire out camping.

KF: What's the biggest event you had to do that for? How many pots did you have, and how many people ate?

JA: Yeah, a couple different events. I got involved with our church, and as a kind of money-raiser for some events that the church would hold. We would put on a Dutch oven dinner, and so we would round up as many Dutch ovens as we could from folks within the church, and would have basically a three-course dinner, and we'd be stacking Dutch ovens four or five high and we would have anywhere from ten to fifteen ovens. And we'd cook for about eighty people, and always heard a lot of praise about them. Just a lot of fun. And I've done a little dinner for a field trip, just last fall, for a Forest Service field trip that we had up in the Pinaleno Mountains, looking at some forest health issues up there. I said hey, as long as we're going to be up there why don't you guys let me bring a couple pots along and I'll make a couple dishes. We had lasagna and we had a little Mexican dish and the cobbler, and some beans and those kind of things. It really went off well. A lot of fun. Kind of brings people together. You know, when you have a party, everybody goes in the kitchen. Well, when you're having Dutch ovens everybody's gathering around the Dutch ovens looking at them. Hey, what's under this one? Why you rotating that oven? And all these kind of things. It's a lot of fun, and I really enjoy doing those kind of things.

KF: What kind of things would you like to do at the Folklife Festival?

JA: Well I think a couple things. It would be fun to have the Dutch oven there. I could have a couple, three or four Dutch ovens going, and I could explain what that's all about, and that these were probably ways that— and I think there's old photographs of actually Forest Service employees way back when; early nineteen hundreds—not that far back, but anyway—they'd pull out the old pot and whip up a lunch, right there in the field. I think that would be really intriguing to a lot of people.

I think folks know about Dutch oven cooking and that kind of thing, but in a lot of ways it's more of a Western kind of event. You certainly hear a lot about the wagon trains coming West, and there's always a black pot swinging on the back of the wagon. So that would be as nice event, I think, to have at the Festival. It's pretty compact and easy to do, and you don't necessarily have to have a big fire or anything like that. And it smells good. I think that would be a neat thing that I could contribute. You know, another one would be having some different forest insects there. Could be pinned. Could potentially have some live bark beetles or those kind of things. Could have a little tray of bark beetle larvae, and you know, we dip them in a little chocolate and eat them.

KF: Truly, we could eat bugs?

JA: You bet you can eat bugs. They're high protein, those kind of things. One of the things, depends on who's doing it, but if we're out doing like a little field trip, or we've been asked to come out and train some crews about forest insects and diseases, we'll often chip some bark off a tree and, depends on who it is, talk about the life stages and there'll usually be a little grubs, a little larvae, and you know, the size of a piece of rice—pop 'em in your mouth, chew 'em up [pantomimes eating] real quick.

KF: The kids would love that [laughing].

JA: Kids like bugs. We've got big bugs and little bugs. Oftentimes you have little trays of collections of insects. You know, even have kind of a variety of different forest insects that are causing damage and concern, not only to the Forest Service but to other agencies and the public as well. Probably not a lot of folks in the East that really know much about bark beetles. That's one of the main disturbance agents in the West. Certainly could talk about some of the woodwork and those kind of aspects. Possibly even bring a canoe along, and have it there to kind of view, but I don't think there's any water on the Mall that you could paddle.

KF: You never know. If somebody else has an idea that needs water, we could have water.

JA: And if my wife was part of the Festival as well, we are kind of a disturbance group. She does a lot of the fire. Fire ecology is kind of her gig. And so when we talk at the dinner table about what you're doing, it's you know, how many times have they ever evacuated a town because of a bark beetle outbreak. Well probably not too often, but boy do they cause damage though. There's all kinds of connections I guess that way.

KF: Stuff with kids.

JA: Stuff with kids. [nods] Probably a lot of stuff with kids would be if they could potentially help make the biscuits in the Dutch oven. Or some hands-on kinds of activities with the insects or the diseases. Running out of ideas.

Well surprisingly I've run out of words to say here, so I've got to get back. I'm hosting a field trip for this forest health monitoring group. I'm going to be a timber guide for one of the fifty-five passenger buses. We've got three really interesting stops planned. We're going to go up Oak Creek Canyon and get everybody out in a little bit of snow, and talk about the dying and dead trees; and then move on to Flagstaff and talk about some of the restoration efforts that are going on. Should be a really good trip. And some interesting little stories along the way that we'll interject as we go, so it won't be all too much business and death and destruction, bark beetle killing, those kind of things. So off we go.

[Scene changes; JA standing in different location holding microphone. Microphone doesn't work. JA shrugs, pockets microphone. Sound comes on.]

JA: All right, let's get this going before the mikes go funky. So did Tom go over the agenda with the Tom bus? It's really important that Tom's group stays with him and my group stays with me. We're going to split everybody up at each site and in order for us to get through this and get back to Sedona by five-thirty we really need to herd you as best we can. [Acknowledges someone off-camera] Forrest?

Forrest: Can we believe everything Tom said?

JA: Unless he says something about me. And we did get to see Tom's video. [Addressing someone off-camera] Do you have the video player? Okay, great. All right, so at this stop we're going to talk about, and see, some of the bark beetle mortality, and then talk a little about hazard trees and aspen decline. First of all I'd like to go ahead and introduce the speakers for the different stops. [Indicates people off-camera] Mary Lou Fairweather, forest pathologist for the forest health protection group here in Flagstaff. [off-camera clapping] And Mary's going to be talking about the hazard trees and aspen decline. And Tom's group will be going with Mary Lou right after this. Debbie Terrian is with the recreation staff here on the Red Rocks District of the Cocanino National Forest, and Debbie's going to take Joel and go to the Point, and talk about some of the mitigation work that's going on at some of the recreation sites. Also we have Neil Cobb. Everyone saw Neil on Tuesday during the panel. And Neil's going to be making a presentation at our last stop, at the Pinyon stop. Brian Giles, with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, research plant pathologist, is also going to be talking at the last location, kind of giving a broader perspective of the drought and impacts and those things. Joel McMillan is going to be talking about some of the bark beetle activity as well at this stop. And then at the second stop, our next stop, we're going to be picking up some fire folks with the Summit Fire Department, talking about some of the work that the local fire departments, not only Flagstaff but many of the small communities in these pine forests, are doing to try to reduce the fuel loads and mitigate for some of these big fires you've heard about.

Okay, anyway, what I'd like to do just real quickly is kind of recap some of the bark beetle information you've heard about, maybe interject a couple things you haven't heard about yet. And one of those is just the wide-spreadness of this outbreak. And we've put a map up. We intended to have a series of maps—2001, 2002, 2003— but the winds just aren't going to let us do that. But take a couple minutes and look at this. It shows the ponderosa pine mortality in red, and just the scope of the mortality across the state. And then also we have the Pinyon mortality that's occurred in the darker blue. And then the other signature on there is the yellow outlined in green. And that is the aspen decline that we picked up this year.

So in terms of the ponderosa pine area this year—everyone's got their handout?—we mapped in about one point two million acres of ponderosa pine mortality. [responding to off-camera voice] With mortality. Thank you. And did some supplemental flights this past year, as part of this larger pinyon assessment that happened. And basically flew an additional four million acres, and mapped in an additional six hundred thousand acres that have been impacted by bark beetles in the pinyon type itself. So it really has a broad scope in many species, and we really do spend an awful lot of time kind of focusing on the pines. But there are some—as Mary Lou's going to talk about, the aspen—that are really getting hit hard in proportion of the size.

Another really interesting and kind of important event that happened is that this occurred very, very quickly. And the reason for that was that we're dealing with bark beetles and a bark beetle complex that had that ability to have multiple generations per year. So you go from the rim country that we're kind of on right now, where you'd have potentially the pine engraver, which would typically have two generations, maybe three, to maybe an additional life cycle because of the warmness that we've had. And then when you go down lower you get into the [five spine laconiae], and it has three to four generations. So you have this exponential growth in beetle population dynamics, and that kind of played itself out when we started looking at the mortality. Initially when we started mapping in the mortality in 2002, in late July and August, the sketch mappers were coming back and telling us that they're seeing a lot of pine mortality. We didn't know really much about it. We hadn't seen that. And it wasn't until you got in the

area that you spot that. But they'd come in and they'd take off in two weeks and come back to Flagstaff to the airport and say hey, you know that polygon I drew around Flagstaff's about twice the size. And it was just happening that quick.

So one of the things we wanted to do—because it really is, this survey is kind of a snapshot in time—is to do a kind of a supplemental survey two months out. So we located an area on the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest that we had flown in mid-August, and then flew that two months later. And I'm not sure of the exact size, but it might have been close to a hundred thousand acres or so that we flew. And there was a six hundred per cent increase in the number of trees that we picked up in that supplemental flight two months later, and about three hundred percent increase in area. So this thing was just a huge monster that was growing and growing. And so one of the things that's happened with the survey data too is that in 2002 we're showing this huge increase, and what has happened essentially is that we're capturing some of the mortality that happened in 2002 that we didn't have a chance to pick up, but we picked it up in 2003. So there is this kind of lag sometime. And those are very important messages that we try to get out to the public and the media and those kind of things. Any quick questions? Well, looks like we need to spilt up, and Tom's going to take his bus load, with Mary Lou, and you folks are going to stay kind of to the left of the Native American tables. No buying yet. [Listens to inaudible off-camera voices] Okay, we'll switch at one-forty-five.

[Camera films map described above.]

[Scene changes to JA in interior setting.]

JA: Well, we've made it out of the woods, and the field trip was quite a success. Heard a lot of good things from people about that. And we're in our home. Linda and our's home.

One of the things we've talked about down in Sedona was some of my woodworking, and this is a drop-front desk [indicates piece behind him] that I made. [Opens drop section of desk] We call this our furlough desk. This desk was made over the winter of the mid-90s, when the Forest Service and the government was basically furloughed for, I think it was about three weeks. We were told to stay home and not report to work, and there was kind of a big question about whether we were going to get paid, and all these kinds of things were going on. So I decided, I'm going to be doing some things anyway, and I'm going to work on a woodworking project, and this is what I did. This is kind of a Shaker-style desk I made for Linda. It has a nice little top; you can store your books and those kind of things. The kids really like this little hidden door where you can put your pencils. No nails; everything's glued. Nice dovetails. Basically solid red oak. Really had a lot of fun making this. Been about close to eighty hours putting this together, and it was basically during the furlough period.

I've done a number of other woodworking projects. Made some desks and kind of refurbished some furniture. Also got into doing some glass; stained glass. I've got three different lamps in the house here. I've made a nice double bulb lamp for my folks, back in Virginia. And I've done a number of sun-catcher lamps. These are fun little projects. Basically you're just cutting and doing a lot of kind of sanding, and then, they call this foiling, [indicates a part of the lamp] and then you solder it together, and it turns out, it's nice. It's kind of a warm sense.

Another thing that I wanted to throw out there too, that I've been involved with, kind of with a connection with my dad, is that we both were skiers at one time. He doesn't ski as much now, but when Linda and I moved to Utah I got involved with a ski naturalist program that had just started on the Wasatch Cache National Forest. Well that just happens to be the forest that my dad started his career at; the Wasatch Cache right out of Salt Lake City. And one of the things that I remember is that my dad would go up to Brighton; up the Little Cottonwood Canyon, right out of Salt Lake City. And he would volunteer to do the ski ranger for the weekend. And so one of the deals was that he would take the whole family and we would go and stay in one of the guard stations right there at Brighton. I remember there being five, six feet of snow, and we—just little kids-- we'd be walking down the tunnels to get into the ranger station. And dad would go out and ski up on the ski hill, and mingle with the public, and do what he did at that time. So we would do a lot of sledding and skiing and those kinds of things. So actually that was the first ski resort that we started doing the ski naturalist program on, was Brighton. So it was kind of like coming home for me. The guard station had actually burned down in 1981, I believe, so I never got to see the thing again, but I had a lot of pictures, and my dad used to take movies, so we had these eight millimeter pictures of that old guard station. So I got involved with this volunteer ski naturalist program, and did it up in Salt Lake City for about five years.

And then there were a couple of us that were living up north, up in Ogden, that convinced the Ogden ranger district folks that they should have a ski naturalist program there at Snow Basin, that's right there outside of Ogden. So we got involved in putting together some interpretive materials for them. Basically what we do is spend the day. We'd be there when the resort opened; we'd be in our uniforms, and we'd ski and mingle with the public. We'd ride up on the ski lifts with them, and basically have a presence and answer questions, and let people know that these are public lands, their lands, and that they're leased to the vendor that's running the ski resort, and those kind of things. And then we'd put on about a half an hour or an hour program. And we'd have various stops coming down one of the ski runs, and talk about all kinds of things: trees and bugs and wildlife, and any kinds of issues that were going on. A little history of the resort and those kinds of things.

But anyway, we left that and migrated south to Arizona here, and Flagstaff has a ski resort in the Peaks at Snow Bowl. And so the first year that I was here I started contacting the Peaks Ranger District folks, and wanted to know if they were interested in doing a ski-with-the-ranger kind of program. And they were interested in doing that, so I got some information together, that was kind of pertinent to the ski resort in terms of history, and some of the vegetation and wildlife, and some on the issues that would be interesting to the public and very pertinent to this specific ski resort. So we put that together and started a little ski interpretive program here at Snow Bowl. We did it the first year that I was here, and then the next year it got real dry, and the ski resort was open for I think three or four days, so we didn't do it then. This year we've got a little bit more snow; the ski resort's been open for about three weeks or so. So we're going to potentially try to get it going this year. So it's kind of a fun little story; my dad was doing the ski stuff, and then I got involved with it. It was just funny that I started at the same ski resort and then ever since, kind of loved skiing and doing those kind of things.

KF: I was thinking: Why don't you tell us how it turned out when you went down to Mount Taylor?

JA: Okay. I think I did mention earlier too, down in Sedona, that I'm kind of an endurance athlete. So a couple of things: Linda likes to, I don't know, maybe not poke fun…

KF: Who's Linda?

JA: Linda's my wife. I've been doing the triathlon up in Idaho. It's called the Spud Man. I always wanted to win a Spud Man. They only give them to the top three finishers in each division. So I got second; I got me a Spud Man before I left. You actually swim in the Snake River, which is kind of interesting, and do this bike, and then you do a run. Well, just this past weekend there was another race, and the majority of the race in on federal lands, on Forest Service land. And it's called the Mount Taylor Quadrathalon. It starts in Grants, New Mexico and goes up to the peak of Mount Taylor, which is about a forty-eight hundred foot climb, twenty-two miles one way. Once you hit the top then you come back. But anyway, you start with this bike ride, and then once you get to the transition for the bike run you put your shoes on, and then you run for like five miles. And the next event is a ski, cross country ski. So you put your skis on and ski for a couple more miles, all uphill, and then you put your snow shoes on, go right to the peak, grab a banana and some water and turn around and come down.

Mount Taylor from what I hear is one of four sacred mountains in this southwestern region. San Francisco Peaks is one, and Mount Taylor is another. I've been on Mount Taylor three times now with the race, and I need to get up on San Francisco Peaks and get on another sacred mountain. I've always been kind of into the races, endurance stuff, just to stay in shape. I enjoy it. I've been involved in a number of the fitness programs with the Forest Service over the years too. Not so much getting them going, but actively involved, participate, volunteer work, that sort of thing. Just a little bit about that.

KF: I'm going to pause.

JA: Sure. Just tell me when.

[Picture changes to outdoors; JA with canoe.]

JA: Okay, so we migrated outside, and in front of us we have a cedar strip canoe. What's kind of unique about this one is that, I made it of course, and this is one of two that I made when Linda and I lived just outside of Durham, New Hampshire, while I was an entomologist there. If you live up in that neck of the woods, where there's so much water, you've got to have some kind of boat. I'd seen a couple wooden canoes in the area, and picked up some books and started looking at things and decided, yes, what I wanted to do was make a cedar strip canoe. I went up and got some white cedar from a small mom and pop saw mill up in Maine, and brought it back and made some forms, and started to make this sixteen and a half foot cedar strip canoe in our living room in our apartment. It took a couple months to make.

[Lifts up canoe to show the inside.] Basically this has a bunch of three-quarter inch strips that make the actual canoe itself; that's kind of the core, the frame. And then what you do is you put a layer of fiberglass around that, and that really stiffens it up. And then it's got some nice gunnels that are made out of ash that give in some rigidity, and I've made some nice ash cane-bottomed seats. Another one of the little things that I've gotten involved with over the years is caning antique chairs.

Linda and I have had this in the Adirondacks a number of times, doing quite a bit of canoeing and portaging and camping and just having a good old time with the canoe. So it's funny that I got into canoeing and moved to Utah. Even less water there. We did get it out a few times on some of the local lakes. And then lo and behold we come to Flagstaff and there is no running water, perennial streams in northern Arizona. There are some small lakes that we could take it out on, but we haven't done that yet.

Of course you have the granddaddy of most of the rivers, the Colorado, just down the road, but somehow I don't think that this would quite hold up to the big water. So anyway, there's my canoe story. Behind me I've got kind of a greenhouse, lath house, potting soil kind of house. Linda and I are into gardening; enjoy the outdoors. And one of the things we found out pretty quickly here is it is kind of windy and the growing season's short, so I found a picture of a greenhouse that I thought would look nice out here, so with the help of Linda, and the kids of course, we put this little greenhouse together. Linda, why don't you come over here and we'll introduce Linda. One of the things that Linda is famous for is Wadleigh Wonders, and I'm sure she'll get to tell that story a little bit later. We're going to interview Linda here momentarily. Linda wanted to make sure that she could have a place where she could grow tomatoes. And so we've got the greenhouse. Linda always starts the tomatoes in the house to get them going, and we they migrate out into the greenhouse a little later, in the early spring, and we always have tomatoes wherever we go, right?

Linda Anhold: Yes.

JA: So that's just another one of the projects we're involved with. Linda and I spend quite a bit of time outdoors, and we've actually spent quite a bit of time in this particular house, doing the landscaping, to kind of extend our living space out of the house to the outside. So we're kind of in the throes of doing that. Once you're in Arizona you can't use a lot of water for grass and those kinds of things, so we're got a lot of perennials and natives; hardscaping with rocks and those kind of things. And then we've got a great view. San Francisco Peaks; kind of mentioned that a little bit earlier, inside. The ski resort and so forth. Nice place to go hiking and biking, and just generally getting outside to enjoy the outdoors.

We're fortunate enough to live in Flagstaff, with all the beauty and all the federal lands around us that we can enjoy. That's ultimately one of the reason s I think we both migrated to the West; to enjoy the greater outdoors and the federal lands.

It's been great with the interview and I hope you guys have enjoyed this. I know you're probably sitting through many [emphasis] of these. I can't say it's going to be the best-- I don't sing and dance-- but that's kind of my life with the Forest Service, and I'm sure you're looking forward to Linda's story about the forest service. Adios.

END OF INTERVIEW