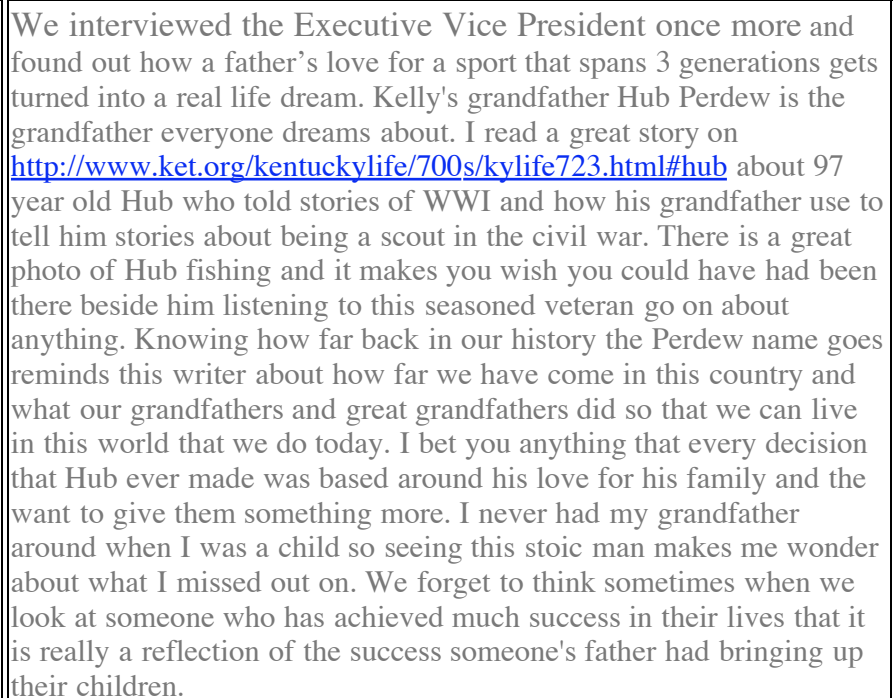


Rich Land Richer Land

Kelly Perdew

Talks fishing and lets us in on a great deal for sportsman.



We interviewed the Executive Vice President once more and found out how a father's love for a sport that spans 3 generations gets turned into a real life dream. Kelly's grandfather Hub Perdew is the grandfather everyone dreams about. I read a great story on <http://www.ket.org/kentuckylife/700s/kylife723.html#hub> about 97 year old Hub who told stories of WWI and how his grandfather use to tell him stories about being a scout in the civil war. There is a great photo of Hub fishing and it makes you wish you could have had been there beside him listening to this seasoned veteran go on about anything. Knowing how far back in our history the Perdew name goes reminds this writer about how far we have come in this country and what our grandfathers and great grandfathers did so that we can live in this world that we do today. I bet you anything that every decision that Hub ever made was based around his love for his family and the want to give them something more. I never had my grandfather around when I was a child so seeing this stoic man makes me wonder about what I missed out on. We forget to think sometimes when we look at someone who has achieved much success in their lives that it is really a reflection of the success someone's father had bringing up their children.

Below is the EMAIL interview I did with Kelly about fishing and his new ranch. The questions are in grey, the answers in white.



What inspired you to get into Fly-Fishing?

I can't recall the first time I went fishing because my family had me out before I was old enough to remember, but I clearly recall the many times I went with my Grandfather "Hub" Perdew on Elkhorn Creek in Frankfort, Kentucky, where we fly fished for smallmouth bass, which that stream is famous for. I would have to say that his love of fishing, which he handed down to my Dad, to me, and to all of my brothers, is probably my greatest inspiration.

What is it about the sport that you most enjoy?

I think I enjoy a lot of different aspects, all of which make it a truly rewarding sport: selecting the proper fly for the stream and what the fish are

Tell us about the ranch what does it offer to the fly-fishing sportsman, what makes it unique?

The ranch is unique in several respects, not the least of which is its location, just 25 minutes west of Great Falls, Montana in the small community of Ft. Shaw, and along the Sun River. The second greatest attraction might just be the 20 five-acre tracts that we are offering for sale starting at \$150k, along with the exclusive right for those 20 owners to use the remainder of the ranch as if it were their own. We would like to have a group of owners who feel as we do, who want to spend their free time in that type of atmosphere, and who will pass that on to their children, I think my Dad would love it if each of his sons would sell five lots to each of our respective friends so that it truly

eating at the moment, presenting the fly in a way that will attract, not scare, the fish; the beauty of trout streams just about everywhere; the comraderie of the friends you fish with; and on occasion, I really like to keep a few fish for the table or smoker.

What do you use for equipment?

A bent willow branch and some old sewing thread with a safety pin tied to the end! Seriously, my Dad bought each of his sons a hand made fly rod and reel from a very close family friend, Taylor Davidson, also in Frankfort KY. Taylor can make just about any rod and reel combination you can think of, hand tying the eyelets, seating the cork, and they are truly works of art. I personally have a 6-1/2 foot #3 weight rod, which is so light that a 10 inch brookie feels like a whale. I use a variety of fly lines depending upon the situation and have a variety of wet and dry flies along with popping bugs and other baits for bass and bluegill.

What made you decide to build a fishing ranch?

Well, it's not just a fishing retreat, it's an actual working ranch which just happens to have some tremendous trout fishing in the Sun River which runs through it, along with several smaller streams, a warm water slough, and trout ponds that we will enhance. The decision to create such a place is probably attributable to a "family concept" that has evolved over the years. All of us love the outdoors, some of us like to hunt and we all love to fish, so when we found this property, which has abundant game and fish, we all discussed it and decided to create a place where a few of our friends could hunt, fish, cross country ski, or whatever and they could literally Own Their Own Ranch without having any of the normal obligations associated therewith.

is a "family affair."

As far as fishing goes, in addition to the Sun River which is loaded with trophy browns and rainbows, the Missouri River is less than 20 miles to the east and is the largest fishery in Montana. Two hours south are three of the Blue Ribbon Trout streams in the United States, the Madison, the Gallatin and the Yellowstone Rivers. Downhill skiing is about an hour away in four different directions, and cross country skiing is just about everywhere around and on the ranch. In addition, there is upland game hunting, waterfowl hunting, whitetail deer are all over the ranch, and other big game such as elk, bear, sheep and goats are just 30 minutes to the west, so it is truly in the center of an outdoor paradise.

Where can we find more info about the ranch?

Check on my website at:

<http://www.kellyperdew.com/perdewproperties.htm>

and fill out a contact form if you'd like more information



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Steven LaMarco 2005