

Kenny: I'm going to check this real fast here.

Bill Walton: Marine, are you going to get that clock going?

Marine: I-

Sarah: Yes, sure.

Marine: Sarah is.

Bill Walton: Sarah, Sarah, can do it?

Marine: Yeah, press-

Sarah: It's-

Marine: ... clear, because it's on one right now.

Bill Walton: That's okay. It's just one-

Marine: Here you go.

Bill Walton: ... second.

Sarah: Okay.

Kenny: Yeah.

Sarah: Start?

Kenny: I'm going to check things.

Marine: When he tells you.

Kenny: Dogs in detentions.

Marine: Yes.

Kenny: Dogs [inaudible] closed. All right, those lights are off. These lights need to be on.

Bill Walton: The production company I'm working with wants to use this exact set if we get this on a network, because soon we're going to keep, we're not going to change the look of it at all, because there's nothing much that looks like it. That was the whole idea.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Bill Walton: ... to get kind of a, where are they kind of point of view.

Bill Walton: Okay, we ready to go? I'm waiting for-

Kenny: [crosstalk 00:00:43]-

Bill Walton: ... my-

Kenny: ... just a moment. Hang on, so what is this?

Marine: Is your phone updating? No.

Bill Walton: Here we go.

Kenny: You're doing that one.

Marine: Is it?

Ron Maxwell: And-

Bill Walton: This says phone-

Kenny: Bill Walton Show-

Marine: Go ahead.

Kenny: ... April 4th.

Marine: Go ahead.

Sarah: [inaudible 00:00:57]-

Bill Walton: Okay.

Marine: Should Sarah press start?

Kenny: Hm?

Marine: Sarah, start?

Kenny: Sure.

Bill Walton: She can. We're still scrolling to find the-

Sarah: Oh.

Bill Walton: ... teleprompter.

Sarah: Oh.

Marine: Okay, find it, and then it should give you-

Sarah: I'm stopped.

Marine: ... that one. Accept, okay.

Bill Walton: Okay, choose a script. Okay, let's go.

Kenny: Okay.

Bill Walton: Throughout most of the 500 million years since what scientists call the Cambrian Age, there's been a steady increase in the number of plants and animals on the planet. This despite five mass extinction events like the devastating one that killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Kenny: Bill, why don't we start over since we're just starting this out-

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: ... if you don't mind? Yeah, we'll just keep rolling-

Bill Walton: All right.

Kenny: ... from back here.

Sarah: Okay.

Kenny: Yeah, because, also, Marine is still getting situated. Hang on just a minute.

Marine: I didn't want to make any noise while you were-

Kenny: Yeah, yeah, no, let us get situated here.

Marine: It's sticking.

Kenny: Also, you can hear me now?

Sarah: Yeah.

Bill Walton: The thing that was distracting is that's a different size font than the one we had before.

- Marine: Is that too much of a distraction?
- Bill Walton: I think we, well, let's go with it, and if we get through it, that's great. If we don't, we'll do it again.
- Marine: Okay.
- Bill Walton: All right, great.
- Kenny: [inaudible 00:02:15]?
- Bill Walton: Throughout most of the 500 million years since what scientists call the Cambrian Age, there's been a steady increase in the number of plants and animals on the planet. This despite five mass extinction events like the devastating one that killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.
- Bill Walton: But, when humans left Africa about 60,000 years ago and spread out across the globe, other species began vanishing. Slowly at first, and now with such speed that sociobiologist, E.O. Wilson, and others worry about a biological holocaust, a sixth mass extinction event, the only one caused not by some cataclysm but by a single species, us.
- Bill Walton: This is happening suddenly as in Africa where between 2010 and 2012, poachers slaughtered an estimated 100,000 elephants for their ivory, and it is happening slowly worldwide through habitat destruction and degradation. Is this an unfortunate and inevitable consequence of economic growth, or can we do something about it, something big, something radical?
- Bill Walton: What if we could set aside half the planet as permanently protected areas for the 10 million other species and call the movement Half-Earth? I like the idea a lot. But, could this really happen? With me to talk about this very big picture species protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darlington and Ron Maxwell.
- Bill Walton: Harry Skipper Darlington is founder and chairman of Africa ASAP and has been at the forefront of the environmental movement for decades. Skipper, a pilot and an innovator, founded Africa ASAP to stop the horrific slaughter of elephants in Africa through his ... We'll redo this one.
- Kenny: [inaudible 00:04:22].
- Bill Walton: ... through his vision of a protective eye in the sky. Skipper, welcome.
- Bill Walton: I might add, Skipper, on a personal note, flew a hot air balloon the last day of the Soviet Union over Red Square.

Skip Darlington: From Red Square, yes.

Bill Walton: From Red Square, yeah.

Bill Walton: Ron Maxwell, a film director and writer, his epic Civil War films, Gettysburg, Gods and Generals, and Copperhead, have established Ron as the cinema's leading interpreter of that complex, lethal, heroic period in American history. In addition to his highly regarded work in film, Ron is a leader in the worldwide habitat and species protection movement.

Bill Walton: Ron?

Ron Maxwell: Hi, great to be with you.

Bill Walton: Thanks for joining, so Half-Earth, big idea.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah. As I become aware of the threats to biodiversity to multiple species across the planet and met people like Skipper who are focused on various species that are under imminent threat of extinction like the African elephant, but the elephant is just one of many, reading Edward Wilson's book a few years ago for me was a ray of hope, because as I've attended these conferences and meetings mostly across North America, although they're held around the world, I'm always going through dual emotions simultaneously.

Ron Maxwell: One reaction is when you see people that work in different areas, the global destruction that's going on, the catastrophe, the habitat loss, the species destruction, one can't help but being overwhelmed with a feeling of despair that all is lost. But, at the same time, when you attend these conferences, you're meeting the people who have not given up. The people who are committed to saving the biodiversity, saving the species, and that, of course, gives one hope that we can turn things around in time.

Ron Maxwell: When I read Edward Wilson's Half-Earth concept-

Bill Walton: You've got a copy of it right there.

Ron Maxwell: I sure do, yeah.

Bill Walton: Because, this came out in 2016?

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, but the concept is, as you said in the introduction, pretty simple, but it's, what I like about it is that it's hopeful. Because, when you look at the entire

planet, and what's going on, and most of what's going on has to do with just human population growth. Yes, there are some species that are under a direct attack by being shot or being trapped or being poisoned. A lot of that is going on.

Ron Maxwell: But, the greater threat is just from the fact that the wildlife is losing its habitat globally because of the destruction of habitat by growing human populations around the world.

Bill Walton: Well, to put a number on it, if you look at the world population, it was about two and a half billion in 1950, and now, it's about 7 billion. We can talk about where it's going. There's some optimism that it might be leveling off sooner than we think.

Bill Walton: But, in Africa, Skipper, which is where you are doing a lot of your work, it was 221 million in 1950, and now, it's almost 1.1 billion. That's almost a five times increase in Africa. In Asia, we've seen it go from 1.4 million to 4.2 million, so the human population's putting tremendous pressure on these habitats, and that's primarily what's driving the habitat destruction.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, that's it, and all these species, they need adequate room, because the way that all the, the biodiversity of life has been going on for I think the number's 2.8 billion years. It's taken 2.8 billion years to get the biodiversity we have in the world, and it's quite remarkable that just in a span of a few human generations, a lot of it can be gone. There are some estimates that at the current rates, by the end of the 21st century, we could see many of the species that are around us today will have passed into extinction.

Ron Maxwell: We have to remind ourselves, this is a one-way ticket. Once the dodo bird is gone, it never comes back again. Once a, a year and a half ago, we lost a species of rhinoceros. It doesn't come back again. There's no bringing it back.

Bill Walton: Well, the thing that struck me about this when you made me aware of Half-Earth, and that was just last month, it's an incredibly appealing idea. E.O. Wilson had a concept, his word for it's biophilia, and that human beings have a natural affinity for species and protecting species. It's not like we want to prevail over everything and get rid. We want to keep them. It seems to me like this is an idea that could become very popular once people watch our show.

Ron Maxwell: Well, yeah, I think most of what's going on is blind destruction. People are just doing what they've always done. Hominids and our human ancestors have always done. We're wired as E.O. Wilson writes in his book, Half-Earth, we're wired as primates to take one day at a time. That's how we've survived. We're not wired to look 10 years ahead or 100 years ahead to see what we're doing.

Ron Maxwell: Now, we're capable of doing it, because we've got these, we're the Homo sapiens. We're the smart animal, and we can have these kind of discussions, and

we can say, "Let's not continue to do what's destructive. Let's take other choices, so we don't destroy the world."

Ron Maxwell: But, we first have to start with an awareness, because the average person, and I don't say this at all disparagingly, it's not their fault. The average person is not aware of the global destruction that's going on.

Bill Walton: Well, Skipper, in Africa where we've gone from 220 million people in 1950 to about a billion one now, how have you seen this playing out there? Is it-

Skip Darlington: Well, of course, the biggest threat next to poaching is encroachment of farmland into these protected areas. That's causing a huge conflict. Of course, the more people you have the more and more of these encounters, and, sometimes, they end up, deadly encounters occur.

Bill Walton: The push-back that you get on this is that people say, "Well, look, this is a rich person's issue. You can afford to think about this. You can afford to preserve habitat, because you already have your wealth. Whereas, we're in Africa. We've got to feed ourselves. We've got all these extra people that want a better life."

Bill Walton: How do you make the case if you're in Africa that this is a good idea?

Skip Darlington: Well, it's interesting, if you look what's happening in Kenya today, they've just banned plastic bags, for example. I think it's a \$40,000 fine if you use a plastic bag like when we go into Giant or-

Bill Walton: Wait, wait-

Skip Darlington: ... Food Lion.

Bill Walton: ... did you, a 40,000-

Skip Darlington: 40,000-

Bill Walton: ... dollar-

Skip Darlington: ... dollar-

Bill Walton: ... fine-

Skip Darlington: ... fine.

Bill Walton: ... for a plastic bag?

Skip Darlington: Yeah, \$40,000 fine. Also, with-

- Bill Walton: We're buying plastic bags for nickels here in DC.
- Skip Darlington: Yeah, and how many bags the average person use when they go into Giant or to Food Lion? They probably come out with six or seven.
- Skip Darlington: I think that a lot of these, and also, in Kenya, for example, it's slightly draconian, but now they're passing this law that if you kill an elephant, if you're a poacher, you will be executed. It's quite draconian, but they're certainly more aware of these issues I think, than we are generally.
- Skip Darlington: Though, at the same time, sometimes, I'll give talks at schools, and it's amazing when you speak with kids how aware they are of these things. I see great hope.
- Skip Darlington: As E.O. Wilson said, "The Earth is slowly turning green." It might be a very pale shade of green, but I think we really need to look at some of these countries in Africa and see what they're doing. This idea of, this colonialism attitude that we have towards Africa, there's this concept that I think is changing. I think there's much we can learn from these countries.
- Bill Walton: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Well, one of the things I learned and learnt about this is we now have around the world about 5,000 national parks and about 200,000 protected areas. But, for the Half-Earth concept to work, you need to have them connected to each other. This is not something where you can have an island of habitat and expect that to preserve the species. They don't. It shrinks. They need a corridor to go to other habitats.
- Ron Maxwell: Yeah, I think the concept behind this is that the human population has grown so large so fast is expanding so rapidly, there's so much destruction that in order to save the biodiversity, save all these other species that are on the planet with us, we have to stop the encroachment. It's a goal.
- Ron Maxwell: Right now, the land that's being taken away from nature, taken away from wilderness, it's exponentially getting worse every day. The goal here is to save, the goal eventually to save half the planet, to say, "Just leave it alone. Don't touch it. Don't manage it. Just leave it alone, so that the natural world can start to restore itself."
- Ron Maxwell: This can be, what I find attractive about this concept is that while governments may do it, or even while coalitions of governments may agree to do this, we don't have to wait for such big political events. We can do it in our own backyards, if we own our property. We can say, "Half of my one acre, I'm going to leave it alone. I'm not going to have a lawn there. I'm going to let it grow in a wilderness, so that the animals that live in my particular part of the world, whether they're squirrels or chipmunks or birds, whatever they are, turtles, they can find again a wilderness area where they can go back to being what they are in nature."

Ron Maxwell: A community can do it. A village can do it. A county can do it.

Ron Maxwell: For instance, where we live, Bill, out in Rappahannock County Virginia, we're one of the counties around a national park, which is Shenandoah National Park. If the communities can say, "Let's take half of our land and voluntarily stop cutting down trees." Because, when we cut down even a grove of trees, we're destroying a habitat for certain bird species and mammal species and reptile species. Every time we cut down a grove of trees, we're moving in the wrong direction.

Ron Maxwell: But, it's a mindset where we have to stop thinking, as Wilson mentioned, to stop looking at nature as a commodity. Everything we see in nature, how can we turn it into dollars and cents? As long as we're taking that view, we're not going to get on top of this problem. We need to change our view and not to reduce it to a commodity, but to say it has an intrinsic value-

Bill Walton: [crosstalk 00:16:22]-

Ron Maxwell: ... the way it is.

Bill Walton: I think that's the, to me, that's an essential point. This has an intrinsic value. We talk about economic development growth, having habitats and species protection does have value. I don't know that you put dollars on it particularly, but that has as much value as many other things we think of as economic.

Ron Maxwell: I think it has the greatest value, because if we look at why do spend so much time in labor? Why do we spend so much time as entrepreneurs generating capital, making profits? The end result is to have a secure, good quality of life. Why should we destroy our quality of life to try to gain the quality of life? We have to keep our mind on the long-range goal, not get so caught up in the short-range goal.

Bill Walton: Wilson's short on the specifics, but he's very strong on the vision. He writes here, "When this thing gets really going, you'll be so surrounded, so enveloped by connected corridors that you'll almost never not be in a national park, or at any rate in a landscape that leads to a national park."

Ron Maxwell: It's a wonderful goal.

Bill Walton: There's our vision.

Ron Maxwell: Yup.

Bill Walton: Well, this guy, I think if we have the concept out there, this could obviously be a big factor in zoning laws, where anybody wants to do something you put a Half-Earth concept in there, and the developer has to add that in to the calculation.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, or, at least talk about it. For instance, getting back to our county, and I think we live in a, relatively speaking, an enlightened county, I'll give you one concrete example of this. My land is not developed. I have 75 acres of forest, and my neighbor is cutting everything down on his property. He gets a tax break, an enormous tax break, he has an incentive in the county-

Bill Walton: He's timbering.

Ron Maxwell: ... because, he's taking the timber out. I don't get the tax break, so I'm paying, without exaggeration, 10 times more taxes, because I'm not cutting down my trees. This is why this has to be completely rethought at all levels of government.

Bill Walton: Well, let's take North America. North America has four primary habitats. There's the Boreal Forest, which is in Canada. Then, there's the Western Wildway, which is in the mountains in the West. We have the Appalachian Valley where you and I live, which is straight up down from Maine down almost through to Georgia, Alabama, and we've got the Longleaf Pine Historic Range, which is right along the Southeast Atlantic coastline.

Bill Walton: It's already happening there. There are some entrepreneurs that are pulling together what they call Piney Woods in the American Southeast. The thing I didn't realize is that after the Civil War because of the destitution there, they cut down 97% of the trees that were there, and now, that's beginning to come back. But, if you compare that 97% to say what's happened to coral reefs, we've lost about 20% of our coral reefs.

Bill Walton: Yet, we're starting to see that habitat come back, because people are buying up parcels. They're connecting parcels, and they're making it happen.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah, it is encouraging. That's a gentleman by the name of Davis who's been doing it. He grew up in the Panhandle of Florida, and he realized the destruction that had gone on, and he bought up a lot of acreage like Ted Turner has done out West to save this.

Ron Maxwell: I think another kind of awareness, where we can help spread awareness is that when we cut down forests, we are also destroying the habitat of the multiplicity of species that live in the forest. You can't just pick up a species and move it somewhere else. Every species on this planet evolved in a certain space, in a certain place, a certain topography, a certain climate, certain minerals, and other animals that it's intersecting with. It's a whole ecosystem that's in harmony.

Ron Maxwell: When you cut down the forest, all those animals just don't move 100 miles away. Many individual animals die. But, even more catastrophically, species die, because you're putting more and more species in competition for less space. If you start out with let's say 60 bird species, you destroy a forest, a certain

percentage, maybe as much as 30% of those bird species will be dead within 10 years, because they don't have the proper environment to reproduce and to carry their genes into the future.

Ron Maxwell: All these things are related that you can't take a thread out here without the whole fabric unraveling. What I think a lot of our fellow humans don't understand is that we are one of the threads. If you pull, even if you're a person who doesn't care about wildlife, and there may be such people, do you care about your own species? Because, the end result of these tearing out a thread here and a thread here, then Homo sapiens won't survive either, because we too are a part of the web of life.

Bill Walton: Going from the big picture to a specific species and a real problem, Skipper, what you're doing in Africa with the African elephants, can you tell us about that?

Skip Darlington: Well, as Ron was saying about if you take out one species, it's not just that one species you're affecting multiple species. I think never has it been more true with the African elephant.

Skip Darlington: The African elephant is known as a keystone species. The survival of many other animals depend on the African elephant. For example, with their tusks, they dig watering holes. They, of course, are known as the gardeners of Africa, because they go in, and they rip apart forests and allow for new growth, and they spread seeds everywhere.

Skip Darlington: I think that's a-

Bill Walton: It sounds like we could use one out in Rappahannock.

Skip Darlington: We could, several, several.

Skip Darlington: What our mission is at Africa ASAP, it stands for Aerial Surveillance Against Poaching, is to keep the elephants alive and, more importantly, to protect these habitats, these vast parks in Africa, and we think we have a much better way of doing that.

Skip Darlington: Traditionally, people have been using airplanes, helicopters, drones, and they've not been working very well. What's needed is near persistent surveillance over these parks. It's difficult to do, because many of these parks are the size of West Virginia, 20,000 square miles.

Skip Darlington: We've come up with a system, we have a remote-controlled airship like a Goodyear blimp, a bit smaller, it's 100 feet long. It has a camera on board, a million dollar camera and various sensors, so we can cover, protect an area the size of West Virginia every 24 hours.

Bill Walton: You're an aviator. Did you invent the system?

Skip Darlington: Well, airships have been around for a long time. What I've done is have put a couple of layers of things on. The airship, for example, during World War II when the US Navy suffered its biggest defeat in history, it wasn't Pearl Harbor where we lost 80-90,000 tons of shipping, it was right off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia where we lost 4 million tons of shipping in 1942.

Skip Darlington: Now, the US Navy responded with the appropriate technology. They built airships. They built 160 airships. What's important about this is by the end of 1942, Admiral Doenitz in Germany recalled every single one of his U-boats back to Germany. What this did, it allowed us to free up our shipping, so we could cross the Atlantic and get to the UK and get our supplies there.

Skip Darlington: Now, the airship, what's really key is of the 79,000 boats that the airship protected only one boat was lost. Of the 40,000 missions that the airships flew, they only lost one airship. Actually, everybody got off that airship except for one poor fellow who was eaten by a mako shark.

Skip Darlington: Why this was effective, it was effective, because-

Bill Walton: You took this concept to protect ships, and you're now using to protect elephants.

Skip Darlington: Deterrence is huge in this. The German U-boat captain, he would see a convoy of boats, and if there was one airship over it, he knew he could maybe sink one ship or two. But, he was dead, he was finished, because the airship would come fly over him. The airship had under it something called a magnetometer, which could spot a big hunk of metal in the ocean, and the U-boat could only travel for 70 miles, it would have to surface. The airship could stay over him for days. That's why all the submarines were recalled to Germany, because it was a battle that they couldn't win.

Bill Walton: How does this apply to the elephants in Africa?

Skip Darlington: Well, it's, number one, we're able to survey, protect an area the size of West Virginia every 24 hours. We're able spot the poachers before they kill the elephants. Right now, a lot of effort is being done on, "Okay, well, what do we do with the dead parts of the elephant, the ivory? Do we crush it? Do we burn it?"

Skip Darlington: Of course, it's good to do that for awareness. On the other hand, you have the poachers saying, "Yay, burn some more ivory," because the less ivory there is-

Bill Walton: You're-

Skip Darlington: ... the more-

Bill Walton: ... driving-

Skip Darlington: ... I'm going-

Bill Walton: ... up the prices they've-

Skip Darlington: ... to get for my price.

Bill Walton: ... already got. Yeah, yeah.

Skip Darlington: It's simple economics 101.

Bill Walton: Sure.

Skip Darlington: Our focus is to keep the elephants alive. By getting the ranger, see he only needs one thing, he needs actual intelligence. He needs to know where the elephants are, where the poachers are, and to be between the elephant and the poacher with intelligence that keeps him safe, the elephants alive, and also the poachers.

Skip Darlington: Some of the poachers don't want to be there. Sometimes, you'll have a poacher in a park, and his parents are being held by some very bad guys who will tell the kid, "Okay, you go shoot me an elephant, or I'm going to kill your parents."

Bill Walton: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Skip Darlington: It's really about, these airships, it's about protecting life.

Bill Walton: This is a very big issue. We had a couple million elephants in Africa back when, and, now, we're down to 500,000?

Skip Darlington: I think that's a little inflated, that number.

Bill Walton: Not even that many?

Skip Darlington: It is more like 400,000, perhaps a little bit less.

Bill Walton: You touched on it, but this is a big, serious, dangerous business this business of poaching, and you had personal experience with the dangers.

Skip Darlington: Yes, the folks behind this are highly organized, Asian gangsters for the most part. For example, in Tanzania in Ruaha National Park, Tanzania's largest national park, in 2014, in one year, they lost 11,600 elephants, so this is industrial-scale killing. This is not a poacher shooting an elephant to get some

money to buy his wife a dress. This is industrial-scale poaching, and that money, the bulk of it's not staying in Africa.

Bill Walton: You lost a partner to this.

Skip Darlington: Yes. Our partner and dear friend, we were just canoeing down the Shenandoah River a little bit before this happened together, Wayne Lotter, who really is responsible for turning the situation around in Tanzania with this group that he formed called the National and Transnational Serious Crimes Unit. He, for example, is responsible for catching this, or, as he would say, his group, the National and Transnational Serious Crimes Unit, for capturing the Queen of Ivory. That was the first time a Chinese has ever been put in prison, and I'm very happy to-

Bill Walton: The head poacher was a woman-

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Bill Walton: ... the Queen of Ivory.

Skip Darlington: The Queen of Ivory. She came over in the '70s when the Chinese were building the railroad.

Bill Walton: Sure.

Skip Darlington: Part of the infrastructure in Dar es Salaam, she owned the biggest restaurant in Dar. She was head of the Chinese Tanzanian, their equivalent of the Chamber-

Bill Walton: The Chinese-

Skip Darlington: ... of Commerce.

Bill Walton: ... want the ivory. Do they grind it down into dust, to powder? How do they-

Skip Darlington: No.

Bill Walton: ... use it?

Skip Darlington: Well, the ivory has officially, has been banned in China now not Hong Kong though, which is experiencing a very active ivory trade. There was huge demand in China. Now, it's gone underground, of course. There's still a demand. It's being sold illegally-

Ron Maxwell: What do they-

Skip Darlington: ... or going-

Ron Maxwell: ... use it for?

Skip Darlington: ... through ... Oh, for carving of, for decoration, you have artifacts. A lot of Chinese are-

Bill Walton: Well, the rhinoceros horns are used as aphrodisiacs.

Skip Darlington: Cure for cancer, a host of-

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: ... a host of things.

Bill Walton: This is not a medicinal trade.

Skip Darlington: No.

Bill Walton: This is simply-

Skip Darlington: No.

Bill Walton: ... the-

Skip Darlington: This is strictly-

Bill Walton: ... decorative-

Skip Darlington: I think a lot of, you have a rising Chinese middle class. They're looking for some way to connect with their past. Ivory seems to be part of that.

Bill Walton: We were talking about your partner though.

Skip Darlington: Yes.

Bill Walton: You lost your partner.

Skip Darlington: Yes, yeah. He was assassinated in 2017 in September, because he was going after the money, going after the folks who were behind the trade. He was catching about 80 poachers a month also on the ground. But, you see, he was all intelligence-based. He believed that you need to have just good policing and good intelligence.

Skip Darlington: If I could relate to you his story, what got him going first was back in 2014, as I mentioned, Ruaha National Park that lost 11,600 elephants in this one year, Tanzania's largest national park. I got a call from Wayne over Christmas, and he said, "Skip, I'm about to go into Ruaha. There are some terrible things that are

going on there. I can't really talk about it, but I'll call you when you'll be hearing stuff in the press."

Skip Darlington: What he did, he went into Ruaha National Park. There had been 90 very bad guys who had camped there. They had automatic weapons, light artillery, chainsaws, and they were going and camping for three, four months at a time and killing elephants. To kill that many, you have to have some sort of a production going on.

Skip Darlington: He captured all 90 without even one injury. They were brought in through a Pentecostal church. Basically, he put the word out, if you arrive at the Pentecostal church the next day you'll receive the equivalent of a green card. Of course, these guys, they left their guns at home. They arrive in church, and they're arrested. I think it's about 40 were put in jail, and the rest deported.

Skip Darlington: Intelligence-based operations, we're not talking about people going in with guns and killing poachers. We have respect for the life of the elephants, of the poachers, of the habitat.

Bill Walton: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Were the murderers found?

Skip Darlington: They've arrested eight so far.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: There will be more. This was not a, this was, again, like the poaching trade, highly organized gangsters were behind-

Ron Maxwell: What happened to your friend exactly?

Skip Darlington: He was coming back, he had flown in from Ruaha to Dar and coming back from the airport, he was followed from Ruaha, and the taxi was stopped at 11 o'clock at night, and he was ... Another car pulled in front of him, and guys got out, opened up the doors, shot him. They stole his laptop. Fortunately, he'd received some funding from I believe it was Fish and Wildlife before, so the US became involved in his investigation, and I think has probably helped it along.

Bill Walton: Well, I'd like to continue this conversation. We've run out of our time in the regular show. Could you guys stay for an after-

Skip Darlington: Of course.

Bill Walton: ... show talk? Where do we find you? This africaasap.org.

Skip Darlington: Africaasap.org.

Bill Walton: .org?

Skip Darlington: Yes, .org.

Bill Walton: If people want to get involved in this, contact you, and you can-

Skip Darlington: Please.

Bill Walton: ... be reached at?

Skip Darlington: (540)687-1033, africaasap.org and at skipperd@africaasap.org.

Bill Walton: Okay, we'll put that on the, on our-

Skip Darlington: Thank you.

Bill Walton: ... information.

Bill Walton: Ron, you're, I'm so impressed with what you're doing with this. I was thinking of you as a filmmaker, and I didn't realize that you were actually working on saving the planet in addition.

Ron Maxwell: Well, again, going back to Wilson, the encouraging thing, and for all those who are listening to us now is that anybody can do this. You can do it in your backyard, in your community. You can say I'm Half-Earth.

Ron Maxwell: If you want to be more ambitious and take 100% of your property and turn it into wilderness, God bless you. But, the idea of taking half of whatever we have and protecting it, just letting it be wild, let it go wild. Why did it have to be a lawn? Let it turn into a meadow. There's all sorts of things we can do.

Ron Maxwell: But, getting back to what Skipper was talking about, it shows you that this pressure from human expansion manifests itself in different ways, and the most hideous manifestation are these transnational gangs. Now, the transnational gangs, I think what Skipper's done and his wife and other people that have been involved, what I call the front line troops, they're really putting themselves, as the story we just heard, in harm's way.

Ron Maxwell: Because, if you mess with these people, this is huge amounts of money involved. It's all illegal, and the same people behind it, these people behind these transnational gangs who are killing elephants, killing rhinoceroses, also kidnapping monkeys and all sorts of other species that they're selling, everything is reduced to trade in this environment.

Ron Maxwell: It's a dangerous business. The same gangs who are doing this are also the traffickers in children, in sex trafficking, in human trafficking, in uranium

trafficking, in weapons trafficking. They're in business with the Islamist gangs in Africa.

Ron Maxwell: When I was thinking this thing through, so, yes, at one level, we can do only what we can do in our own backyard, so to speak, as Voltaire wrote in *Candide*. But, also, how do we get our arms around this larger issue?

Ron Maxwell: Again, doing what we can do, I called my good buddy, Jeff Sessions, who at the time was still the Attorney General of the United States, and I had a discussion with my wife beforehand. I said, "Karen, do I really want to bother the Attorney General of the United States about species destruction? He's got a lot on his mind?" She said, "Yeah."

Ron Maxwell: I called him up, again, the way you can call a good friend, and I said, and this was in a conversation with the attorney general last summer, and I said, "Jeff, are you aware that at the current rate of slaughter of the African elephant, it's going to be extinct within seven years?" The African elephant and *Homo sapiens* have been around forever, and on our watch, we're going to let this happen?

Ron Maxwell: I pointed out to him, I thought he might know it, but never assume anything, I've learned. I pointed out to him that the people that are behind this destruction, are the same people who are behind the transnational gangs that are moving drugs and narcotics and human trafficking into the United States and across the globe.

Ron Maxwell: Well, of course, he knew this. Of course, he knew this, because he's got very competent people reporting to him. He said, "Ron, what can I do?" I said, "The only people who can stop these transnational gangs are governments, and this is an opportunity for the United States of America which is the preeminent, we're still the country that can get things done. Let's get things done for our own nation and for the globe."

Ron Maxwell: He came totally on board, and he put the whole weight of the Department of Justice going after these transnational gangs specifically to stop the slaughter of elephants. But, also, in all the other ways that they're negatively impacting our own country and other countries around the world.

Bill Walton: Well, let's continue the conversation in the after-show. Thank you for that. I'm surprised and delighted Jeff Sessions was so involved. I think our next step is Mr. Trump, and we'll talk about that in a moment.

Bill Walton: Thanks for joining us, and I hope you'll join us in the after-show segment where we dig into this some more. If not, we'll see you and talk with you in our next show. Thanks, bye.

Bill Walton: Okay, great.

Ron Maxwell: I thought we were in the after-session. That's why I launched into that.

Bill Walton: I know. You were doing so well. You did not need a hook.

Bill Walton: But, anyway, we're going to keep taping this. We're just going to keep going without any real-

Kenny: Give us-

Bill Walton: ... stop.

Kenny: Give us just one second here-

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: ... so we can get our shots.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Marine: What do you want to do?

Kenny: Just a wider shot to begin with. Then, [inaudible 00:38:50]-

Bill Walton: So-

Kenny: Hang on, I'm not ready yet. Sarah, [inaudible] down again. Sarah, do you want to restart the clock for Bill?

Sarah: Okay.

Kenny: Can you do that? All right, standby. Just go ahead and restart-

Sarah: Whoops.

Kenny: ... it now. Let me see your shot. Bill, are you sitting up? Okay.

Bill Walton: Sitting up.

Kenny: Everybody's sitting up. Go ahead and restart it. When you're ready, Bill.

Bill Walton: What are the politics of habitat preservation, species preservation? I think of it, I think of environmental, writ large as, most of the people who are environmentalists are on the left, and there's an agenda about climate change. There's a view that, I share the view that there's not a whole lot we can do about climate change, whether it's man-made or not, and the cost of trying to fix things are so high that you got to count on human beings adapting to a

changing environment. If we want to do something serious, we'd have to start with the Chinese or the Russians or a lot of the other people that are serious polluters.

Bill Walton: But, habitat's different. Habitat's man-made. Habitat issues are man-made. We've had a development. We've had this massive explosion of people around the world, and yet, the encouraging thing I think of is that if it is man-made, we can do something about it.

Bill Walton: We can do it through political pressure. We can do it through just raising awareness. You point out, Ron, we can do things locally. Even as simple as changing zoning laws, so that you got to be aware that we need to protect habitat.

Bill Walton: My question is, can we break habitat out of the environmental movement generally and get people on the right more enthusiastic about this?

Ron Maxwell: Well, I think one of the first things we have to do and this is, I'm certainly not the first one making these proposals, it's been simmering for a while. I think what we notice as citizens in our country that the old paradigms are not serving us, the paradigms of left and right, Republican-

Bill Walton: That's for sure.

Ron Maxwell: ... Democrat.

Bill Walton: For sure.

Ron Maxwell: Nobody's happy. Nobody's satisfied, and the bottom line is we're not solving problems, and we have huge problems. We're talking about problems around habitat and wildlife, and protecting the planet was pretty major. But, there's also other problems, and almost nothing's getting solved.

Ron Maxwell: I think in terms of one of the things that I admire about Trammell Crow, who started EarthX in Dallas a few years ago, it revolves around Earth Day that was started in 1970 is he invites everybody in. He said, "When you come to EarthX ..." It's a long weekend, and people come with whatever they have on their mind, it could be climate change, it could be clean energy, it could be saving leopards, it could be saving wolves, whatever it is, "We're here to learn from each other. We're here to talk to each other. If you want to come and point fingers and scream at people, please don't come, because that gets us nowhere."

Ron Maxwell: I think we must start to see each other as fellow citizens in our country. Of course, we live in our own sovereign state but, also, as sharing the planet and working together to come to solutions without blame and finger-pointing.

Bill Walton: EarthX is in Dallas every year in-

Ron Maxwell: In April.

Bill Walton: ... in April?

Ron Maxwell: It revolves around-

Bill Walton: It's a three-day convention.

Skip Darlington: It's the largest Earth Day event in the world.

Bill Walton: How many people will be there?

Ron Maxwell: 300,000 over the course of the days-

Skip Darlington: Perhaps-

Ron Maxwell: ... or more?

Skip Darlington: I'm not sure.

Ron Maxwell: It's a lot of people. It's bigger every year.

Bill Walton: Is any of this streamed?

Ron Maxwell: Yes.

Bill Walton: Do people have to be there? How would you participate if you couldn't make it to Dallas?

Ron Maxwell: I think earthx.com I think is the correct URL, but if I don't have that right, just google EarthX, and it revolves around whatever that Earth Day is every year in April. It's a few days before and a few days after. It also includes an environmental film festival which has got a great selection of documentary films on all sorts of subjects.

Bill Walton: Do you know about it?

Kenny: Hm?

Bill Walton: Do you know about it?

Kenny: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ron Maxwell: One of the things that Trammell has done, Trammell ... We understand you have to deal with the world-

Marine: 22nd.

Ron Maxwell: ... the way it is. Trammell invites in every conceivable organization or NGO that's working on whatever they're working on cleaning-

Marine: The 22nd of April.

Ron Maxwell: ... the ocean or saving the whales and, also, major corporate leaders. Because, the environment we live in, we're not going to get the big things done, unless corporate leaders come in and put their shoulder to the plow and help solve the problems.

Ron Maxwell: It's a place where everybody's welcome, but a lot of leadership shows up. What I like about it is you meet people you otherwise wouldn't meet.

Ron Maxwell: Look, you can say, "Look, I disagree with you, on the other 90% of the things that the major media is talking about. But, we don't have to talk about that. We're not here to disagree. Let's work on what we can agree on," and most people agree we have a crisis in the environment. We have a crisis with wildlife.

Bill Walton: That's the thing that I find intriguing about this habitat and species issue. I think it's really hard to find people to disagree that this is a good idea.

Skip Darlington: Yes.

Bill Walton: That era's long over. I think this is a 90% issue. That's where I think this is a wedge issue to get people engaged in environmental issues in a way that seems very achievable.

Skip Darlington: It's something everyone can get behind.

Bill Walton: Yeah, we're already seeing it happen in the Southeast. Mr. Davis is making things happen. I think things are happening in the West. In New England, people are pulling it together.

Bill Walton: Interesting story, New England cut down all its forest, I think it was in 1820. Oh, it was just after the Napoleonic Wars. Somehow they discovered Merino sheep, and everybody wanted to raise Merino sheep, because it was highly valuable. They cut down all the forests in New England to bring sheep in, and you can still see the stone walls there.

Bill Walton: Then, something happened, and the sheep became less valuable, so everybody gave up and moved West out of New England. You had this deforested region, but the good news is that it's about 78% forest now. It's all come back.

Ron Maxwell: Although some species didn't come back. The first destruction of New England was for the British Navy. Because, in the 18th century, they had already taken down all the trees in Ireland. That's why you got to Ireland even today-

Bill Walton: These were for masts for ships?

Ron Maxwell: For masts for ships, masts and spars.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Ron Maxwell: I forget the tree species it was, but it's extinct in New England, because they grew very tall and very straight. That was the first ... But, we look back at any of these things, there some short-term economic reason why this is destroyed, or that's destroyed, and no one was looking ahead. Okay, we can cut them some slack. They lived in the 18th century.

Ron Maxwell: But, we have no such excuse anymore to go after those short-range goal. When we talk a lot about Africa, and we should be talking Africa, but let's talk about North America. Let's even talk about the United States of America, our country.

Ron Maxwell: We've had the gray wolf on the endangered species list for a long time. Now, it's coming under pressure, because, again, of a narrow interest, and these are ranchers out West who are worried about, there's too many wolves. They're losing their livestock, and they're pushing their representatives to get it unlisted as an endangered species.

Ron Maxwell: Well, of course, anybody with common sense knows that once you allow people to go into the dens and just slaughter pups in the dens, they'll be right back on the endangered species list within 12 months. It's like open season on wolves.

Ron Maxwell: Again, we have to stop thinking in terms of the short term. Now, if ranchers have an economic situation, let's address it. Let's not ignore the ranchers. They have a reason that they have a problem. Let's help solve the problem.

Ron Maxwell: But, maybe the solution to the problem isn't slaughtering wolves. In fact, I would argue, let's restore the wolf to its whole habitat. They're now just around the national parks, and they're a little bit down in the southern part of the United States.

Ron Maxwell: Well, before they were slaughtered almost to extinction 100 years ago, they ranged all over the North American continent. By taking out the alpha species, which is the wolf, everything else was affected. By taking out the wolf, you had

more deer, you had more caribou. They ate the bark on the trees. The whole ecosystem was changed in ways that man created not so beneficially.

Ron Maxwell: Again, we have to I think work at not looking at the narrow interests here, the narrow interest there, the narrow interest there. Because, you add up all the narrow interests, and the end result is mass destruction and mass species annihilation.

Ron Maxwell: We have to step back and say, "We need to stop the killing. We need to stop the slaughter. We need to stop the encroachment by restoring wilderness to its natural state."

Bill Walton: Does-

Ron Maxwell: If there are individuals in businesses-

Bill Walton: [inaudible 00:48:11]-

Ron Maxwell: ... who get caught up in this, yes, let's not ignore them. Let's find ways as a country to help solve their problem without making the wildlife the victim.

Bill Walton: One thing I think needs to be specified is when we talk about habitat preservation, it doesn't mean putting things in a national park. You can be creating habitats on private property, and the ranchers can be just involved in that as somebody that's running a national park.

Bill Walton: We've got to find, we got to make clear that this is not a question of, it's going to be owned by the government. It's going to be in private hands. A lot of people believe that the national parks have been mismanaged because of some of the agendas there, and that those would be better in private hands in part, because they'd be more naturalized.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, I think it's a question of consciousness raising, and you mentioned the example of some people who, like Turner, like Davis. These are some of the wealthiest people in our society. They have voluntarily bought land to preserve it, to restore it, to let it be to its natural state.

Ron Maxwell: I think the best model, we would agree is always the voluntary model. But, we have to change incentives, so that to volunteer to do something is easier than to not volunteer to do something. Because, if we don't do that, then we're left further down the road in more degraded circumstances, where governments then have to be coercive. We don't want to get into a coercive state of society. I know the three of us around this table certainly don't want to go there.

Ron Maxwell: Let's while we have a shot at voluntarily helping nature, let's take that path.

Bill Walton: Skipper?

Skip Darlington: I think as Ron says, it's a question of awareness. You can go into your backyard, plant a butterfly bush. There's so much joy if you just, if you open up your eyes. I think that's really the place to begin for a lot of folks.

Bill Walton: Well, you've been laboring in these vineyards forever. How is the Half, I'm new to the Half-Earth idea, a month ago. I think it's a wonderful idea. How many people understand this?

Skip Darlington: I think it's been kicking around for a while the idea, but I think it's really just beginning to get traction right now. Certainly, most of the folks that I've spoken to-

Bill Walton: I think if we went to the shopping mall, and we stopped people and said, "What do you think about Half-Earth?" You'd get a lot of blank stares.

Skip Darlington: Yeah, but that's why it's so important what you're doing and having us here today. I feel this huge momentum behind it right now, and it's just bursting to get out-

Bill Walton: Now there-

Skip Darlington: ... there.

Bill Walton: Are there, we've got Africa ASAP. Is there a Half-Earth dedicated organization that is, maybe we should start one today? Where we've got an organization dedicated to getting the word out to the educated people.

Ron Maxwell: You know Wilson, right?

Skip Darlington: Yeah, so I-

Ron Maxwell: How about a phone call? Ask him if there's an organization that goes along with the concept?

Bill Walton: Well, E.O. Wilson has written a great book, but he's very big on the vision and very short on how to actually make it happen. If you start-

Skip Darlington: This is-

Bill Walton: ... assembling properties in Georgia, you got all kinds of people that are going to hold out. You can't really pull things together. You got to have a lot of resources, or a lot of very useful zoning laws to help you make that happen.

- Skip Darlington: It's really, that's why I think so much a question of awareness. It has to come from individuals and young kids. It's I think very important that this is talked about in schools and, again, to go into one's backyard and just on a sunny afternoon it's a beautiful spring day out there today-
- Ron Maxwell: What I've learned, Bill, is that you have to engage at many different levels at the same time. I mentioned before about my call to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, in that particular case, because I had access. We, all of us have to look at, what access do we have? What access do we have with our families, with our friends, in our communities, in our schools? In my case, I happened to have access at the highest levels of the federal government.
- Ron Maxwell: Just to briefly follow up on that story, Jeff Sessions performed. Within a week, I had a meeting with assistant attorney generals at the Department of Justice who met me with their legal pads and pencils at the ready, and "What can we do?"
- Ron Maxwell: What I quickly found out, and not to my surprise, was that the federal government was already very much involved in these areas. Fish and Wildlife, Homeland Security, Department of Justice, State Department already very much involved in the wildlife trafficking and already very much aware that the traffickers were the same people doing all the other bad stuff around the world and funneling money into terrorist organizations. It's all related, so the fact, you can't even divorce elephants being slaughtered from our own national security. That's how pervasive these, I would say, evil transnational gangs are.
- Ron Maxwell: In this case, Jeff Sessions pulled together a conference at the DOJ. Skipper was there. Our friend, Trammell Crow, was the there. There were 70 people in the room.
- Ron Maxwell: What I found amazing was they all spoke. It was a half-day conference. The attorney general was there and all these different, Fish and Wildlife, Department of Justice, Homeland Security, FBI. What I heard over and over again is they hadn't been assembled in one room ever.
- Bill Walton: Yeah, there we go.
- Ron Maxwell: Everybody was in their silo just like people were before 9/11 in their silos.
- Bill Walton: Yeah.
- Ron Maxwell: And, they weren't sharing information and had the information been shared before 9/11, as we now know according to the 9/11 Report, we may have averted 9/11. The same thing with the catastrophe with wildlife. These people have to know what everybody else is doing. There was a feeling in the room, oh, wow, they were exchanging cards. They were exchanging business cards. I was amazed.

Ron Maxwell: I share this, because this is just a little old one guy making a phone call to somebody he knew in government, and the result was something good, something better. We also invited Kate Brooks who flew in from London, because she had made the documentary film, The Last Animals. She showed a 10-minute clip of The Last Animals which is about the destruction in that film of the rhinoceros and the African elephant.

Ron Maxwell: Here we were bringing ... Only the federal government, the United States government and other allied governments can take on these transnational gangs. We can't. We saw what happened to Skipper's friend when he crossed paths with those groups. They put a bullet in his head.

Ron Maxwell: This is how dangerous it is. This is how high the stakes are. We need to work at all levels which is the federal level, the local level, our own families and friends, and each one of us can do what they can.

Ron Maxwell: Again, what I love about Wilson's approach is nobody needs to feel like, "This is too big. I can't deal with it," because every single one of us, no matter how small and insignificant we may feel, can make a difference.

Bill Walton: Well, there's an organization I just found called The Half-Earth Project.

Skip Darlington: Yes.

Bill Walton: Are you familiar with that?

Skip Darlington: Yes, yup.

Bill Walton: It seems to me like they're in the business of spreading the word.

Skip Darlington: They are. They are. I think it would be wonderful for listeners to go and-

Bill Walton: They're at half-earthproject.org. They're talking about Half-Earth ambassadors, educator ambassadors create a platform for teachers to educate with each other and students in a grand ambition of Half-Earth.

Bill Walton: They've also got maps here which is where they think there could be habitats to be preserved, which is interesting when you actually look at a map, and you think, "Well, we could make this happen."

Bill Walton: What is it, about 15% of the Earth right now is in its natural state?

Ron Maxwell: It depends, maybe this morning. Now, it's 14.75. The rate of destruction is so great. It's so great.

Ron Maxwell: And, it's not just in Amazonia. It's not just in Malaysia. It's catastrophic what's going on to the forests in those places but our own country. I didn't know until about five or six years ago thanks to Dogwood Alliance based in Asheville, North Carolina that our own forests in the Southeast are getting clearcut, massively clearcut.

Bill Walton: Still?

Ron Maxwell: I thought we couldn't do that anymore. This is the Carolinas, southern part of Virginia, most of the Carolinas, northern parts of Georgia, and I looked into it. I said, "What's going on?"

Ron Maxwell: There's a company called Enviva, it's one of the companies. They're buying up huge tracts, and it's relatively inexpensive.

Bill Walton: Well, here's some, are we talking about the Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands of Southwest that are being cut down? Because, that's on the list of-

Ron Maxwell: I'm talking about the Southeast forests, the Carolinas.

Bill Walton: Okay, well, this-

Ron Maxwell: That may be-

Bill Walton: ... is Southwest.

Ron Maxwell: ... another problem out there. Here's the irony about this when you look into it, so why are these forests being cut down? This is a classic case of unintended consequences.

Ron Maxwell: Because, the Europeans said, "We're not burning coal anymore." Well, the Europeans need power. Now, France is under a lot of nuclear, but there are other countries that are not. Germany's not nuclear.

Ron Maxwell: They have these huge fire-burning plants.

Bill Walton: We're going back to the Middle Ages and cutting down forests?

Ron Maxwell: Forests.

Bill Walton: Oh.

Ron Maxwell: They have no forests to burn. They've destroyed them all.

Bill Walton: But, is it renewable? These trees will grow every 30 years, you can ...

Ron Maxwell: If you cut down a forest in France, you go to jail for a while, so they're looking at North America. They want our forests.

Ron Maxwell: Now, we're not talking about Weyerhaeuser and the big companies that are giving us the paper we use and newspapers and-

Bill Walton: Sure.

Ron Maxwell: ... toilet paper, and everything else we use. Those companies are responsible. They cut, they grow. They cut, they grow on huge plantations.

Ron Maxwell: We're talking about companies going into virgin forests where they have a habitat and wildlife just cutting it all down, massive destruction, I've seen the pictures. It looks like a nuclear bomb went off, stumps.

Ron Maxwell: What about the people who live there? Who lives in these environments? Poor whites and poor blacks, so there's a social component to this too. Suddenly, they're living in the middle of a wasteland. What kind of life is that?

Ron Maxwell: But, here's what happens to the wood. Does it give employment for Americans? No. Is it building furniture or wood for houses? No. It gets chopped up into pellets, put on barges, then using fossil fuel to sail to Europe, so that it can be burned in incinerators to make electricity for the Europeans, because they don't want to burn coal.

Ron Maxwell: This is the folly of what's going on. You have a handful of people making a lot of money off destroying the forests of the Southeast, completely destroying the habitat and the ecosystem.

Ron Maxwell: I called, again, Bill, we have to be clever and smart and efficient. In the case of-

Bill Walton: I like clever, smart, and efficient, yeah.

Ron Maxwell: In the case of the African elephant, I called my good buddy, Jeff Sessions, and Jeff Sessions came through.

Ron Maxwell: Now, in the case a couple of years before, in the case of the forests when I found out about that, that was during the Obama administration. I did not have access to anybody in the Cabinet of the Obama administration, but Congressman Markey who is a-

Bill Walton: Sure.

Ron Maxwell: ... Senator Markey-

Bill Walton: Ed Markey?

Ron Maxwell: He's a neighbor of yours.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: He's an old friend of mine, and I know he cares about these things, and I called Senator Markey. I said, "Senator, are you aware that forests are being clear-cut in the Southeast United States?" Well, he was not aware. Again, we must never assume that everybody knows everything.

Ron Maxwell: He said, "Come on in." I had a meeting with Senator Markey and his chief of staff and his environmental staff. Here's the rub. Most people would think, Bill, that the Obama administration was very supportive of environmental issues. You'd be right generally speaking but, again, not 100%.

Ron Maxwell: The EPA under Obama, a couple of months before the meeting that I had with Senator Markey had placed, said, "All biofuel is good. All biofuel is good." Well, that was the green light to these people that are cutting down the forests in the Southeast United States.

Ron Maxwell: I said, "Ed, this can't stand." To his credit, within one month, he sent a letter to the head of the EPA saying, "Please reopen your finding, because I understand about grass, I understand about corn. We understand about a lot of good biofuels. But, do you really mean that we should be cutting down our forests?"

Ron Maxwell: At the end of the Obama administration, they actually agreed to reopen that study. Then, we had an election, and it was dropped. As we stand right now-

Bill Walton: Are we still cutting down-

Ron Maxwell: ... the forests-

Bill Walton: ... forests?

Ron Maxwell: ... they're cutting down, massive cutting going on in the Southeast.

Bill Walton: This is the Department of Interior that would have-

Ron Maxwell: This is EPA. EPA gave the okay, and it hasn't changed. They got a big green light, not even a blinking green light, a big green light to continue what they're doing.

Bill Walton: This show's giving me an assignment for a next show is to pull together all the different ways you could probably influence this thing, because there have got to be. The idea that, do you know the people behind the Half-Earth Project?

Skip Darlington: No. I've only met Dr. Wilson once.

Bill Walton: Okay. Well, fascinating and big problem, and I think the three of us together will get it done.

Skip Darlington: Thank you, Bill.

Bill Walton: Skipper, Ron-

Ron Maxwell: Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh. If I just could also-

Bill Walton: Last word, Ron.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, dogwoodalliance.com is the outfit in Asheville which is on the forefront of trying to save the forests in the Southeast United States.

Bill Walton: Okay, yeah, they came across my research, and I didn't. We'll get them next time. Let's dig into this some more and see if we can't save the planet. Thanks, guys.

Skip Darlington: Thank you.

Ron Maxwell: Great to be with you.

Bill Walton: Okay, great. Yeah, it was fun.

Kenny: Okay.

Bill Walton: Boy, and you keep peeling the onion back on this-

Kenny: Boy, oh, boy.

Bill Walton: ... and it just gets-

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Kenny: Good show.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Because, Kenny knows my ... I'm a libertarian type and not particularly given to the environmentalist movement which I see as a secular religion, because I think of the global warming piece of it which is, we've got all this insanely bad science, which is trying to prove something which you can't really prove.

Bill Walton: This is very different. This habitat thing is something everybody should be on board with.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, absolutely.

Bill Walton: I think it's-

Ron Maxwell: Absolutely.

Bill Walton: In politics, you're looking for 70, 80% issues.

Marine: April 22nd.

Bill Walton: We got to make this more vivid.

Ron Maxwell: Well, now that we're not recording-

Marine: Thursday.

Ron Maxwell: ... I can share, because there is a political dimension, and I didn't, about two years ago, well-

Bill Walton: You got to be careful about that, so do I actually.

Ron Maxwell: Well, we all know. We were all, backing Trump back in the day. I still back him.

Bill Walton: Sarah, thank you.

Sarah: Yeah.

Bill Walton: How did [crosstalk] look there?

Sarah: You were great.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Sarah: You went through show after show on this.

Ron Maxwell: Within three months after the inauguration, we were all at the inauguration, I was at the inauguration, and the interior, he's now gone, but Zinke took the ban off importing ivory. It was all over the headlines, open season on elephants.

Bill Walton: I saw a website on, yeah, yeah.

Ron Maxwell: I called up a couple of my friends who were still in the White House, Ben was already gone at that point, so I called Steve Miller who's a good friend. Who you know, he's one of the speech writers.

Bill Walton: Sure, Steve's good.

Ron Maxwell: I said, "Steve," I said, "what is he doing?" I said, "You just alienated probably at least 100,000 people, if not more. Saving the elephants has got to be a 95 to 5 issue or a 99 to 1 issue, why would you want to get on the wrong side of that one? You're gratuitously alienating people, and you're alienating people who maybe voted for you. Don't assume that everybody who cares about the environment or conservation issues is a liberal democrat. You mustn't assume that, because that's not my experience. My experience is that it cuts across political lines."

Bill Walton: Well, that's the thing I want to take up as a mission personally which is to educate my conservative friends that environmentalism is something more than just the climate change piece. That there's a lot of other things going on.

Skip Darlington: The elephant is-

Kenny: Especially-

Skip Darlington: The elephant's-

Kenny: Especially-

Skip Darlington: ... the symbol of the Republican Party after all.

Bill Walton: Kenny?

Kenny: Oh, especially-

Bill Walton: I'm sorry, what was that?

Skip Darlington: The elephant's the symbol of the Republican Party after all.

Kenny: That's very funny. Especially conservatives out in rural America, they've been pro environmentalists for generations, because that's their livelihood, and they respect it.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah.

Kenny: In the western states, they're definitely. That's where Ted Turner's [inaudible 01:05:22].

Ron Maxwell: I think, I don't know if it was just my call. But, that's what I've learned, "Ron, make the call. Make the call," because you may be the only one making this call. Don't assume that 100 people are calling him. I'm sure other people are calling, but I call.

Bill Walton: This is the Sessions' call?

Ron Maxwell: No, the call to Trump via Miller, and I'll call three people that can get to Trump. I call him, I call my friend, Tim Barton, who plays golf with him, and I talk to another guy, Mahoney, in New York who's great friends with Don Jr. I call three guys and say, "Get off, this is crazy. Who's pushing this? Who is behind this change that Zinke did?"

Ron Maxwell: Well, Zinke, I know exactly what's going on, because Zinke's friends with the big game hunters. He's friends with the big game hunters. I said, "Okay, they're not the big problem." I'm not saying that the big game hunters are the problem. But, the fact, but, in political terms, this is bad for Trump. You're going to lose people, never get them back. I said, "He's got to reverse this."

Ron Maxwell: One week later, Trump actually tweeted, "Oh, this was a mistake. I'm not for shooting elephants, and we're going to keep the ivory ban in place." But, then, Zinke had a meeting with him privately. I know what went on. It was told to me, and Zinke said, "No, I don't want to." It was not a problem for us to continue the ivory imports. As of now, we still have a loophole where people can import ivory into this country.

Ron Maxwell: At the same time, that after decades of people like Skipper lobbying the Chinese government, the Chinese finally came around officially to banning it, you can't import ivory. We know there's a black market, okay. But, officially, you can't.

Ron Maxwell: China says, "No, you can't import it," and the United States says, "Yes, you can." It's mind-boggling. I'm in there in the inside saying, "Guys ..." That hasn't changed. Zinke's policy of allowing certain restricted ivory to come in to the country is still in place.

Skip Darlington: Think of the message that sends. Take the Serengeti. It stretches between Kenya and Tanzania. A white guy can go to Tanzania, shoot an elephant. He can pay \$30,000, shoot an elephant, great. You're in Kenya, over the border, a local, black, you shoot an elephant, you get executed. We're sending the wrong message there.

Bill Walton: What about the argument ... My next-door neighbor, Sarah Davis, no longer there, she's a big game hunter. I'm not. But, she said when this \$30,000 goes in, it makes it more likely that people are going to support the big game hunting business and, therefore, keep poachers out, because that adds more value-

Skip Darlington: Bill, if I could say-

Bill Walton: ... to the big game hunter than it does to the poacher.

Skip Darlington: ... the argument is thin.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: Take, for example, the great Selous, biggest concentration of elephants on the planet. 1976, they had 110,000 elephants. Today, they've got 11,000.

Bill Walton: Wow.

Skip Darlington: The big slaughter started in 2008 to 2014 where they lost 50,000.

Skip Darlington: Now, the Selous is also the, if you ask your friend, "Where would be the best, most fantastic place I can go to shoot big game?" It would be the Selous.

Skip Darlington: They've had dozens and dozens of hunting concessions in these areas in and around the Selous. Trouble is-

Bill Walton: Marine, we're going to have to re-shoot the opening, you know? [inaudible 01:08:45].

Marine: Yes.

Skip Darlington: Say it's \$30,000 to shoot an elephant.

Marine: [crosstalk 01:08:49].

Skip Darlington: Very little of that actually goes to conservation. By the time you take care of the tour operators, you pay off the government officials, what trickles down to conservation is very small.

Skip Darlington: It would be one thing to say, "Okay," you can make a financial argument, "Okay, I shoot an elephant for \$1 million, and \$1 million goes to conserve the elephant." That's an argument you can make.

Skip Darlington: But, where will all the elephants go in the Selous if it's-

Bill Walton: Should we be pushing for a ban on big game hunting, period? I think it's a pointless, pointless thing.

Skip Darlington: I believe-

Bill Walton: I couldn't imagine shooting-

Skip Darlington: No, no. I believe so. But, for me, it's financial, but it's also, it's a moral issue. These are highly sentient beings, the elephants are, highly sentient beings.

Bill Walton: That's implicit in what I'm saying.

Skip Darlington: Yeah, and I think for me, it's a-

Bill Walton: How do you shoot an-

Skip Darlington: ... a moral-

Bill Walton: ... elephant?

Bill Walton: It's sort of like abortion. Okay, 50 years ago, abortion nobody really knew much about what was going on inside a womb. Now, we've got a vivid image for every moment right up until the birth. It's murder.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah. Georgia just passed something I agree with-

Bill Walton: It seems to me if you know all these-

Ron Maxwell: ... the heartbeat bill.

Bill Walton: ... things about elephants or any of these species, why on Earth should we be killing them?

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, I think, and, also, it's where we are. 100 years ago, before these populations were so decimated, and before they were on the edge of extinction, you might have been able to look the other way. But, it's too late.

Ron Maxwell: Look, we all friends who are big game hunters. Of course, we do. One of my closest friends is George O'Neill. He's a great guy, on 99.9% of his politics, I agree with him.

Bill Walton: Yeah, but-

Ron Maxwell: He's an outstanding conservative guy. He puts his money where his mouth is. He's a fabulous guy.

Bill Walton: Yeah, but how do you shoot an elephant?

Ron Maxwell: But, he's a big game hunter. We can't talk about it. He and I, this is an issue we're going to stay off of, because we disagree. But, he actually puts money into preserving wildlife. This is the irony.

Skip Darlington: Well, it's not ironic. If there's nothing there to shoot, you want to preserve the animals, so you can shoot them, so it's not really irony.

Ron Maxwell: No, I would say, "Guys, we need a hiatus. Just stop, stop." You can still have tourism, because you have tourism, "Come and photograph them. Here, take it. We'll give you a 500 millimeter lens. We'll give you a guide from the National

Geographic Society. Get close to them, photograph the hyenas." People are shooting giraffes!

Skip Darlington: US is the biggest importer of giraffe parts, of dead giraffes.

Ron Maxwell: It's mind-boggling.

Skip Darlington: But, if you ask the question ... Okay, I have a friend too who's a big game hunter, goes to Africa every year, shoots an elephant, a lion. You saw the picture recently of the guy who spent, was it \$300,000 to shoot this beautiful goat up in Nepal somewhere?

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: What is it that actually? What's the joy to spend \$300,000 to kill something magnificent? You have to ask the question, why? What is it?

Skip Darlington: Okay, so there's a moment. It's that thrill, the thrill shot.

Skip Darlington: But, for me, it's something much, much deeper. It's personal for me. I believe the same thing that makes a, whether, and it sounds a little harsh, but that makes a man rape a woman instead of making love to her. The same, it's a power. It's, "I'm killing something that's great." Why do you ... This thing to kill elephants, the biggest land animal there is, highly intelligent.

Skip Darlington: It's like a bully in a school, "If I shoot that elephant, I am more important. I am bigger than he is."

Ron Maxwell: There is a psychological-

Skip Darlington: You have to ask that question. You have to go down and-

Ron Maxwell: There is a psychological-

Skip Darlington: ... ask the root question of why-

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: ... why is this happening? I think it's coming from a very dark place in our nature, so this is why I cannot condone trophy hunting.

Skip Darlington: Nothing wrong with something for the pot. I hunted when I was a kid.

Bill Walton: I only wish we had this on film. This is a very good-

Ron Maxwell: We'll come again.

Bill Walton: ... discussion.

Skip Darlington: Yes.

Bill Walton: Let's do this again. But, let's get into more personal stuff.

Skip Darlington: Great, would love to.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Because, I think-

Sarah: This is so interesting. I think you should do lots more, continue this.

Bill Walton: I've become-

Sarah: You're right, just what you were talking about was so interesting.

Bill Walton: Yeah, this is, I think we ought have this discussion of big game hunting, because I'm "againit". I didn't really think through why, but I think your idea about it coming from someplace dark in people who want to do it. It would be one thing 100 years ago, maybe, but now?

Ron Maxwell: You met Walter [Kurt] at my house, the day we had, we were all trying to stop the-

Bill Walton: Sure.

Ron Maxwell: ... the infanticide-

Bill Walton: The abortion thing.

Ron Maxwell: ... thing. We were all going crazy on that, so many things to get crazy about. Walter, he's a, I'm glad you guys continued to talk, because Walter, he's an all-purpose insulter. He'll insult anybody, any time, any place.

Bill Walton: Is this the guy that told me that I don't care that you're vice president [crosstalk 01:13:54]-

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah.

Bill Walton: "I don't care about that."

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, but then you guys had another conversation.

Bill Walton: Walter.

Ron Maxwell: But, that's Walter.

Bill Walton: He might have learned something if he had listened.

Ron Maxwell: Walter, we had a discussion about this recently, and Walter said ... Walter's a hard-ass kind of, real live and let live, conservative kind of guy. He's done well for himself. He doesn't want government interfering in anything.

Ron Maxwell: He goes, and we had a discussion on this very subject, and he said ... I think I brought him around a little bit. He said, "You know, Ron, when I was a kid, I was like 11 or 12 years old, I had a BB gun. I remember one day I spent a week just killing as many squirrels as I could." He said, "I could no more shoot a squirrel today," but he said, that was my mindset when I was 11 or 12 years old. He said, "At some point, you snap out of it."

Bill Walton: Right.

Ron Maxwell: He said, "I don't understand. Who was I-

Bill Walton: Right, I'm with you.

Ron Maxwell: ... when I took pleasure at just shooting squirrels."

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: There is, from the earliest days, some adult should say, "Why are you doing that?"

Skip Darlington: Ron, I did too out of my window. I'm horrified now, but I used to love to shoot beautiful, little sparrows with a BB gun from my window for no reason.

Ron Maxwell: Well, the-

Bill Walton: At what age?

Ron Maxwell: We're not getting ethics in school.

Bill Walton: A kid?

Skip Darlington: Yeah, under 10.

Bill Walton: Yeah, see, that's the-

Ron Maxwell: We're not getting, nobody's teaching ethics in school. You're going to get it from your parents or from your religious institution.

Bill Walton: Now, do I need this, or is this-

Marine: [crosstalk 01:15:24].

Ron Maxwell: Public education, nothing.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: No ethics.

Bill Walton: We're going to do it on the telephone.

Marine: Yeah. [crosstalk 01:15:25].

Ron Maxwell: Especially not animal, wildlife ethics.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Marine: Flip it over. Did you want to add-

Bill Walton: I may want to add. I may not.

Marine: The question is-

Ron Maxwell: It's a youth problem.

Marine: ... we're trying to figure out where you-

Bill Walton: Where did I get that?

Marine: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bill Walton: That was in, it didn't print on, I had to cut and paste this onto a word document.

Ron Maxwell: This is a great setup [inaudible 01:15:41].

Marine: Okay.

Sarah: Yeah.

Marine: But, it was in this particular world population?

Sarah: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: Really neat.

Marine: Okay. All right, I can-

Bill Walton: Well, wait a second. No, it was in the ... It was not in world population, it was in the E.O. Wilson piece on, in Smithsonian, Can the World Really Set Aside Half of the Planet?

Marine: That?

Ron Maxwell: Any chance of ...

Bill Walton: This is like the second page of, the third page.

Marine: Okay, all right, good.

Ron Maxwell: Any chance of you guys coming down to Dallas for a few days for Earth Day?

Bill Walton: What's the date?

Marine: April 22nd.

Bill Walton: I couldn't do that.

Marine: That's Earth Day.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, so it's a couple days before. I think it's, let me look in my-

Bill Walton: I don't know, maybe. I'm so interested in this now.

Ron Maxwell: You're going, right?

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: I'm 90% going to go. I'm just waiting to clear-

Skip Darlington: I was going to go if you're going.

Ron Maxwell: Well, I'm waiting on this thing. I might have to go to LA. Work always takes priority. But, if I don't have to go to LA, I want to go, because, first of all, I go, because it's-

Bill Walton: That's the day after Easter?

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Marine: Mm-hmm (affirmative). That's Earth Day. I'm not sure if, is the thing on Earth Day?

Bill Walton: What days of the week is this? That's a Monday. What's the-

Ron Maxwell: I think it starts the day after, so it starts on the Monday and goes to next weekend. Let's-

Bill Walton: It's the week of the 15th?

Ron Maxwell: It's the day after Easter.

Marine: That's the 22nd.

Ron Maxwell: Again, it's that week. I think the film festival starts on the Monday. Then, Trammell has events and dinners for donors and things. Then, the actual big thing ... It's like a World's Fair, Bill. It's unbelievable. It's the old World's Fairgrounds in Dallas. People walk around, the exhibits, and I remember when I ...

Ron Maxwell: Trammell and I have been friends for years. The first time I went was a year ago, and I was just, I couldn't believe how-

Bill Walton: You're going to-

Ron Maxwell: ... overcome with-

Bill Walton: ... fly down on Monday?

Ron Maxwell: ... emotion. I'm going to try-

Bill Walton: Where do you stay?

Ron Maxwell: ... go down on the Monday.

Bill Walton: Where do you stay?

Ron Maxwell: I'm waiting for Trammell to say that I can stay at his place. Otherwise, there's a hotel where they-

Bill Walton: Now, this is Trammell Crow, Jr.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah.

Bill Walton: Because, we know Harlan Crow.

Ron Maxwell: Harlan's a good friend too. Harlan usually has a dinner party during the week.

Bill Walton: For this?

Ron Maxwell: For this, to support his brother, yeah. Yeah, and so if you guys know you can come, I'll let Trammell know this and make sure you get on the invitation list for the-

Bill Walton: My issue, I've got Ed Meese on the show-

Ron Maxwell: Oh, the great-

Bill Walton: ... that week.

Ron Maxwell: ... Ed Meese.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: The best.

Bill Walton: I want to get him on soon.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah, how's he doing?

Bill Walton: Mentally, he's 38 years old. Physically, he's 88. He's on two canes now, and he's stooped over. But, he's always, no matter what room I'm in, and how many people are in it, he's always the smartest guy in the room.

Ron Maxwell: I did an interview with him in '07, I made a bunch of what I call mini-films on the immigration issue. Talk about feeling like you're beating back the waves like King Canute, it's only got worse in the last 12 years.

Ron Maxwell: But, one of the people I interviewed was him. I sat him down in my house, and I did an hour interview with him. The bottom line of the interview was there's only one thing we got wrong in 1986 with President Reagan, immigration. He never should have passed that amnesty.

Bill Walton: No, no, no, yeah, you're right.

Ron Maxwell: Because, we gave-

Bill Walton: You're right.

Ron Maxwell: ... all these people citizenship, and nothing else happened.

Bill Walton: You're right.

Ron Maxwell: The border stayed open. There was no enforcement.

Bill Walton: Well, they need to sign our book.

Sarah: Yeah. We just, we just started this.

Bill Walton: We just started this at Show 50.

Sarah: Yeah, so, if you can sign.

Bill Walton: We got to go back. We need to go back and-

Sarah: Get the book.

Skip Darlington: Bill, could-

Bill Walton: ... grab everybody.

Skip Darlington: Bill, could I read you something? It takes about a minute.

Bill Walton: Yes.

Skip Darlington: Okay. In a stunning display of inter-species connectedness ... Now, inter-species connectedness is basically your dog rolling over on her back and saying, "Scratch my tummy." [crosstalk 01:19:33]-

Bill Walton: My dogs are very good at inter-species-

Skip Darlington: Yes.

Bill Walton: ... connectedness.

Skip Darlington: ... a herd of wild elephants was seen mourning the death of their friend and savior, Lawrence Anthony. Anthony passed away on March 2nd, 2012. The conservationist and author known as the Elephant Whisperer, Anthony was known for his unique ability to communicate with and calm traumatized elephants.

Skip Darlington: In his book, The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild, he tells the story of saving two herds of wild South African elephants, elephants that had been highly traumatized by poachers and hunters. "To save their lives, I would stay with them, feed them, talk to them but, most importantly, be with them day and night."

Skip Darlington: Following Anthony's death, the two herds of elephants he saved, embarked on a 12-hour journey to visit his wife and children at their home. In the year and a

half they had lived there, the elephants had never been there. But, how did the elephants know Lawrence had died? "A good man died suddenly," says Rabbi Leila Berner, PhD, "and for miles-

Bill Walton: Could you get Kenny?

Skip Darlington: ... and miles away-

Marine: Kenny?

Bill Walton: Kenny?

Kenny: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yes?

Bill Walton: He's reading something extremely moving-

Sarah: It was being recorded right now, as we speak.

Kenny: Well, audio?

Bill Walton: Audio or visual? Do we have a camera on?

Kenny: Yeah, it will just take a minute.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Let's turn the camera on. I'd love to have you-

Kenny: Yeah.

Bill Walton: ... start.

Skip Darlington: Okay, sure.

Bill Walton: Do it the way, do it, you were very moving the way you did it, so give us ... Ron's a movie director. Action, lights, camera, I got that backwards.

Ron Maxwell: When I'm in the presence of another director, I keep my mouth shut. He's the guy. He's the guy.

Bill Walton: Could you just, just ...

Skip Darlington: Sure.

Kenny: Give me a sense of, if this goes in the show-

Bill Walton: It goes.

Kenny: ... which it may or may not. Okay.

Bill Walton: We're going to insert it.

Kenny: All right. You should probably just do a setup line to-

Bill Walton: Okay, I will.

Kenny: Hang on. Let me get ...

Bill Walton: All right.

Kenny: Let's get you on here. The other thing is we have to remember to redo your open.

Bill Walton: I have not forgotten.

Kenny: All right, just a second here.

Bill Walton: I love the conversation part of this.

Ron Maxwell: It's good, because elephants never forget.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: When I reach-

Bill Walton: Let me know when you're ready for the setup.

Skip Darlington: Should I look up to you now and then, or ...

Bill Walton: Yeah, I think that would be good.

Kenny: Well, actually, no, why don't you set it up as-

Bill Walton: Then, you can use it-

Kenny: You say, "Tell our viewers, duh-da-duh-da-duh-da." Then, when you're doing it, when you occasionally look up, look here.

Skip Darlington: Okay.

Bill Walton: Love it.

Kenny: Right?

Bill Walton: Yeah, that's better.

Sarah: Yes.

Bill Walton: It's better.

Kenny: Yeah, all right, hang on.

Bill Walton: It's better.

Marine: Do we need a light back there? I turned it off.

Kenny: Yes, that one needs to go on now. All right, we're rolling there anyway, there. That one on. Let [inaudible 01:22:37]. All right. Okay, Bill, go ahead.

Bill Walton: Skipper, my understanding of elephants is that they are highly intelligent, highly emotional, and really in a sense feel connected to the human community.

Skip Darlington: Yes, and if I could, I'd like to read you something about a man who has had a great influence on my life-

Bill Walton: Please.

Skip Darlington: ... Lawrence Anthony.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: In a stunning display of inter-species connectedness, a herd of wild elephants was seen mourning the death of their friend and savior, Lawrence Anthony. Anthony passed away on March 2nd, 2012. The conservationist and author known as the Elephant Whisperer, Anthony was known for his unique ability to communicate with and calm traumatized elephants.

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sensing that they had lost a beloved human friend moved in a solemn, almost funeral procession to make a call on the bereaved family at the deceased man's home."

Skip Darlington: If there were a time when we can truly sense a wondrous interconnectedness of all beings, it is when we reflect on the elephants of Thula Thula. A man's heart stops, and hundreds of elephants' hearts are grieving. This man's oh-so-abundantly loving heart offered healing to these elephants, and now, they came to pay loving homage to their friend.

Skip Darlington: In the years that followed on the anniversary of his death, the elephants continued to return to his home on that same day to pay their respects.

Marine: Wow.

Bill Walton: Wow, thank you.

Kenny: Okay, very good, very moving.

Marine: Wow.

Bill Walton: Who wrote that?

Skip Darlington: It's-

Bill Walton: It doesn't matter really.

Skip Darlington: Yeah, yeah, no, it was taken from a-

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: ... bunch of articles. It's in the book, The Elephant Whisperer.

Bill Walton: Sure, yeah.

Kenny: I noticed that the mic had been pushed out of the way. I listened to it on the headphones while you were doing it. It's good.

Skip Darlington: Right.

Kenny: It's not optimal.

Skip Darlington: Okay.

Kenny: You want to do it again?

Skip Darlington: Sure.

Kenny: Let's do it.

Skip Darlington: Sure.

Kenny: Do it right. I'm sorry.

Skip Darlington: Yeah, no, no.

Kenny: Just move that to your side, so you can still see it.

Skip Darlington: Okay.

Kenny: Let me just bring this back in [crosstalk] move in a little bit.

Skip Darlington: I might make this just a little bit bigger.

Kenny: Yeah, sure.

Skip Darlington: I can see it.

Kenny: Let's do it right here.

Ron Maxwell: Skipper, this time get it right.

Kenny: Sorry, I did not notice that was there before we rolled.

Bill Walton: He doesn't need to look at the mic. The mic is just there getting-

Kenny: Right.

Bill Walton: There's no-

Kenny: No, but it was pushed out of the way.

Bill Walton: Do you want me to do my piece again?

Kenny: Might as well.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Sarah: [crosstalk 01:26:12].

Kenny: Rolling here?

Sarah: It's still rolling.

Kenny: You're still rolling, okay. All right, just one second. All right. You're good there, so if you can be like that that would be great.

Skip Darlington: Oh, this is-

Kenny: Is that-

Skip Darlington: ... better, yeah.

Kenny: It's not in your way, right?

Skip Darlington: No.

Kenny: Good, all right, let me move here again, please. Okay, okay, good. All righty, all right, we're rolling, and we'll just wait one second.

Kenny: Oh, the place for you to sit Captain would not be back there, because you'll be in the shot, Mr. Director.

Ron Maxwell: [crosstalk 01:26:51].

Kenny: [inaudible 01:26:51], over there.

Sarah: [inaudible 01:26:51]?

Kenny: Okay, here we go. All right, Bill, and when you're ready.

Bill Walton: Skipper, I've come to understand elephants are highly intelligent, highly emotional, and are very connected to the human community. It's much more than just a man-animal relationship. It's something quite different.

Skip Darlington: It is, and if I could read you something about a man that's had a tremendous influence on my life, Lawrence Anthony.

Bill Walton: Please.

Skip Darlington: Thank you.

Skip Darlington: In a stunning display of inter-species connectedness, a herd of wild elephants was seen mourning the death of their friend and savior, Lawrence Anthony. Anthony passed away on March 2nd, 2012. The conservationist and author known as the Elephant Whisperer, Anthony was known for his unique ability to communicate with and calm traumatized elephants.

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Skip Darlington: In the years that followed on the anniversary of his death, the elephants continued to return to his home on the same day to pay their respects.

Bill Walton: Wow.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Thank you.

Skip Darlington: Thank you.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: Whoo.

Marine: That was good. It gives you chills.

Bill Walton: What?

Marine: It gives you chills.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Bill Walton: When should I do my opening again? Right now?

Kenny: Yes, if you'll bear with us?

Skip Darlington: Sure.

Bill Walton: Do you guys mind sticking around while I get through this? It will take two-

Skip Darlington: There's-

Bill Walton: ... minutes.

Skip Darlington: ... nothing more important to us than this, Bill.

Bill Walton: Let's tee it up. No, this is-

Kenny: Let's, just [crosstalk 01:30:08]-

Bill Walton: Let's get it right, Bill.

Sarah: Oh, should I turn this on again now?

Bill Walton: Skipper is a good example.

Kenny: You're just going to, just give us a slightly wider shot.

Sarah: Okay.

Kenny: Just slightly wider. Give us a minute.

Skip Darlington: Bill, it's just tremendous what you're doing here. It really is. Just to hell with all the politics, Republican, Democrat crap.

Bill Walton: Well, that's what I'm getting with all this show. It's-

Skip Darlington: It's just-

Bill Walton: ... interesting. Because, I know when Kenny started a year and a half ago, he thought I was going to do a red meat show. Because, there is that aspect. But, I think you see this thing moving further and further away.

Kenny: Well, I didn't think it would be that bad. Our initial name for the show was Common Ground. With a name like that, it couldn't have been too red meat.

Bill Walton: Well, and then I couldn't find any common ground.

Kenny: Oh, yeah, there was that. That got a little concerning.

Bill Walton: Well that was the issue that I think ... We're going to redo the opening.

Marine: You can sit in your chair over there-

Skip Darlington: No.

Marine: ... if you'd like.

Ron Maxwell: Okay.

Marine: You'll sit over there?

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Kenny: [inaudible 01:31:05].

Ron Maxwell: I just double-checked on something. Yes, that book had been optioned for make a movie, and I was asked to write the screenplay a month ago.

Skip Darlington: Get out-

Ron Maxwell: I just put-

Skip Darlington: ... of here.

Ron Maxwell: ... two and two together.

Kenny: [crosstalk 01:31:18].

Skip Darlington: Hey, I tell you stuff like this happens all the time. These amazing connections that-

Bill Walton: Can we get Ron on camera talk about his [inaudible 01:31:23]?

Kenny: Okay.

Bill Walton: No, we can't.

Kenny: Yeah, it's going to get a little-

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: ... [crosstalk 01:31:27].

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah. Also-

Bill Walton: We're going to have to think through, you don't want to jinx it.

Ron Maxwell: No, a deal is not a deal until-

Bill Walton: Okay.

Ron Maxwell: ... until the check clears. Anything can happen.

Bill Walton: Until the wire hits your account.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, that's right and slaps your face.

Bill Walton: All right, let me get through this opening, and then-

Ron Maxwell: Small world.

Kenny: [inaudible 01:31:48], okay. All right, so everybody quiet for two minutes, please. Sarah, you can roll.

Bill Walton: We're good to go?

Kenny: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Throughout most of the 500 million years since what scientists call the Cambrian Age, there's been a steady increase in the number of plants and animals on the planet. This despite five mass extinction events like the devastating one that killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Bill Walton: But, when humans left Africa about 60,000 years ago and spread out across the globe, other species began vanishing. Slowly at first, and now with such speed that sociobiologist, E.O. Wilson, and others worry about a biological holocaust, a sixth mass extinction event, the only one caused not by some cataclysm but by a single species, us.

Bill Walton: This is happening suddenly as in Africa where between 2010 and 2012, poachers slaughtered an estimated 100,000 elephants for their ivory. It is happening slowly throughout the world through habitat destruction and degradation, and this is an unfortunate and inevitable consequence of economic growth, or can we do something about it, something big, something radical?

Bill Walton: What if we could set aside half the planet as permanently protected for the 10 million other species and call the movement Half-Earth? I like the idea a lot. But, could this really happen? With me to talk about this very big picture species

protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darlington and Ron Maxwell.

Bill Walton: Harry Skipper Darlington is founder and chairman of Africa ASAP, and he is at the forefront of environmental movements for decades. Skipper is a pilot and innovator. He founded American ASAP to stop the horrific slaughter of elephants in Africa through his vision of a protective eye in the sky. Skipper, welcome.

Skip Darlington: Thank you.

Bill Walton: Ronald Maxwell is a film director and writer. His epic war films, Gettysburg, Gods and Generals, and Copperhead, terrific movies, have established Ron as the cinema's leading interpreter of that complex, lethal, heroic period in American history. In addition to his highly regarded work in film, Ron is a leader in the worldwide habitat and species protection movement. Ron, thanks for joining.

Ron Maxwell: Glad to be with you.

Kenny: Super.

Ron Maxwell: Can I ask one little thing maybe just do the last paragraph again? I should have caught this before. Instead of a leader in the movement just say a committed citizen, you might want to cut, because I don't know-

Bill Walton: Can we cut that?

Ron Maxwell: ... if I'm a leader.

Kenny: Yeah-

Skip Darlington: Well, you're-

Kenny: [crosstalk 01:35:07]-

Skip Darlington: ... becoming a leader.

Ron Maxwell: Well-

Skip Darlington: What you-

Bill Walton: We can cut it.

Skip Darlington: What you did-

Bill Walton: What do you want to call it?

Ron Maxwell: It's not out of misplaced modesty. It's just that there are people who do this all the time, and I'm kind of a dilettante.

Skip Darlington: Yeah, but you've been more effective in this short time [crosstalk 01:35:21]-

Bill Walton: No-

Skip Darlington: ... I think-

Bill Walton: ... I think calling Jeff ... Why don't we call you a seriously concerned citizen?

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, concerned and committed, yeah. That's not an exaggeration.

Bill Walton: All right. Let me, let me-

Sarah: That's good, because people can think they-

Bill Walton: Can I-

Sarah: ... can be like-

Bill Walton: ... back this up-

Sarah: ... you.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Bill Walton: ... Marine? Are we-

Kenny: [inaudible 01:35:34].

Ron Maxwell: Exactly.

Bill Walton: Do I need to exit? Is there any way I can back it up?

Marine: Yes.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, because we're going to send this program to leaders in the environmental movement, and I don't want to ... They're going to say, "Excuse me?"

Bill Walton: I got it. I got it, a seriously concerned citizen.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah.

Bill Walton: Yeah. If we can back it up, if I could take Skipper as well as Ron.

Marine: If not, let me-

Kenny: Not at that, it's just, it's like not easy, so tell me when to stop.

Marine: Oh, right there.

Kenny: [inaudible 01:36:04].

Bill Walton: Let's do Skipper as well.

Kenny: Oh. Yeah? Okay. Actually, if we're going to do that, that's fine, because I would love to roll on these other cameras, because I realize when they ...

Bill Walton: Okay, let's, okay, let's go, we're still, keep going.

Kenny: We're not going to go way before? Because, then we have to get this up to speed again?

Bill Walton: Oh, wait a second.

Kenny: Yeah, I see. There we go.

Bill Walton: There we go.

Kenny: I see it. But, I'm going further back on purpose, because then I have to start rolling it the other way.

Bill Walton: Got it.

Sarah: You still have this camera on.

Kenny: That's fine.

Sarah: Okay.

Kenny: That's fine. Now, I'll be guessing at the speed now. Tell me when, is it about there?

Bill Walton: That's a little slow.

Kenny: All right.

Bill Walton: That's good right there.

Kenny: Okay. Now, don't start yet, because we're going to roll on these cameras, just a second.

Marine: I need a-

Kenny: Yeah, yeah.

Marine: ... thing.

Ron Maxwell: Where did you find this carpet?

Sarah: Oh, a decorator, Kelley [Proxmire 01:36:58].

Ron Maxwell: It is so much fun.

Sarah: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Isn't it great?

Sarah: Yeah. She came in, did the curtains, which we did for sound.

Kenny: Give us just a second, guys.

Sarah: [inaudible] Proxmire's daughter-in-law.

Marine: You want to zoom in, or ... Is it ... Find-

Kenny: Where you're good. That's good.

Marine: Okay.

Kenny: Let's just make sure we're all centered up and everything. Then, Marine, you can roll. [inaudible 01:37:22]. Just a second here. Just perhaps pan left a little bit, give him a little more nose room, if you could. All right.

Marine: Did you have glasses on before?

Ron Maxwell: Thank you.

Kenny: Ooh, continuity.

Ron Maxwell: They'll be jumping [crosstalk 01:37:37]. I got to get them [inaudible 01:37:39].

Kenny: I can grab them.

Ron Maxwell: Have you on couch on the other [crosstalk 01:37:42]-

Skip Darlington: Boy, that was a good catch.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah.

Marine: [inaudible] I'm-

Bill Walton: You'd be a good script girl.

Ron Maxwell: Thank you.

Bill Walton: You need a script girl.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, I'm going to have this [inaudible 01:37:50].

Bill Walton: Continuity-

Ron Maxwell: Yep.

Bill Walton: ... on the set matters.

Kenny: I can learn, absolutely. All right, now let's see.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: You're rolling, rolling.

Bill Walton: Ready to go?

Kenny: Nope. Here we go.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: All right. Quiet everybody and go ahead.

Bill Walton: But, could this really happen? With me to talk about this very big picture species protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darlington and Ron Maxwell.

Bill Walton: Harry Skipper Darlington is founder and chairman of Africa ASAP, and he has been at the forefront of the environmental movement for decades. Skipper a pilot and an innovator founded America ... Fuck.

Ron Maxwell: That's not a bad name.

Skip Darlington: Founded an American Fuck.

Kenny: Founded an American Fuck.

Ron Maxwell: We like those Anglo Saxon expletives.

Bill Walton: I sort of after the show think it is America ASAP. We may want to use that blooper.

Marine: Do little outtakes.

Kenny: I know, I know, but I got to go back further to get it up to speed [inaudible 01:39:11].

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: All right, slowing down, coming back the other way. All right, now, tell me, faster? Let's see. Like that?

Bill Walton: That's good right there.

Kenny: Okay.

Bill Walton: That's good right there.

Kenny: Good. Let me stop there. Ladies, can you stop your cameras a minute? I want to start a new clip. Stop them all. Give it a moment. Make sure you're stopped. All right, now roll again. Thank you.

Kenny: Okay, everyone's rolling, yes. Okay, Bill, don't fuck it up.

Bill Walton: It doesn't matter where we start.

Kenny: Right, just pick it. It doesn't matter where we start. It's better to have more of a pad.

Bill Walton: Something big, something radical.

Kenny: Yeah, you just start in there.

Bill Walton: What if we could set aside half the planet as permanently protected areas for the 10 million other species and call the movement Half-Earth? I like the idea a lot. But, could this really happen? With me to talk about this very big picture species protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darlington and Ron Maxwell.

Bill Walton: Harry Skipper Darlington founder and chairman of America ... Fuck.

Kenny: Oh, geez.

Sarah: Ah.

Bill Walton: You know what I think we're going to do, do we need them for the shot?

Kenny: Yeah, because when they-

Skip Darlington: That's fine.

Kenny: ... say thank-

Bill Walton: I'm sorry, guys.

Kenny: ... you-

Bill Walton: I'm sorry, guys.

Skip Darlington: Oh, no, no, no.

Bill Walton: I'm-

Kenny: Once I saw that was also going [crosstalk 01:40:39]-

Bill Walton: Ron's had to deal with this-

Marine: ... say Africa-

Bill Walton: ... before.

Ron Maxwell: This is when-

Marine: ... Africa.

Ron Maxwell: ... we're the actors off camera now. We're like-

Bill Walton: Ron's had to deal with this before. Let's-

Sarah: Should I turn this off?

Kenny: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Let's stop the whole prologue. Let's just get me going.

Kenny: I know.

Bill Walton: To look at what's happening.

Kenny: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Right there.

Marine: Right there.

Kenny: All right, but I got to go back a little bit more. Well, I want it, "with me to talk" is where you should really start.

Marine: All right.

Kenny: But, hang on. I got to go back further to get it up to speed in the-

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: ... other direction. The other thing I noticed that was going maybe a little too fast, and you were having to do it over. All right, here, let's see.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: I'll check the speed. A little faster.

Marine: But, what if you just stopped it and then he started in that direction? Wouldn't it be the normal-

Kenny: Not that like that.

Marine: ... speed? No?

Kenny: No, no, you have to-

Marine: Okay.

Kenny: Okay, here we go. All right, just a minute. You can roll again, everybody.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: Just a second, please. Hold on.

Bill Walton: Where do you want me to go with this do you care?

Kenny: I don't care. Here we go.

Bill Walton: Okay. With me to talk about this very big picture species protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darlington and Ron Maxwell.

Bill Walton: Harry Skipper Darlington is founder and chairman of Africa ASAP, and he's been at the forefront of the environmental movement for decades. Skipper, a pilot and an innovator ... It's going to slow.

Kenny: Aw, all right. I'm sorry.

Sarah: Do I turn this off again?

Bill Walton: Sorry, guys.

Kenny: I want to see what the speed number is? Does it say what speed-

Sarah: Should I turn-

Kenny: ... number is?

Sarah: ... this off again?

Kenny: Yeah, turn it off. It says speed four.

Bill Walton: That's a little too slow.

Kenny: Okay, here we go. Coming back. It's all right, because you missed that Africa on that anyway, African environment movement. Okay-

Sarah: Did you want to do the thing about Red Square?

Marine: Maybe not.

Bill Walton: I think-

Kenny: Maybe not.

Bill Walton: I think let's just get out of this one.

Sarah: Okay.

Kenny: Yeah.

Bill Walton: Let's not get too creative. We've got good stuff throughout it. I'm-

Sarah: You can save that for the next show.

Bill Walton: Ron's familiar with this. You write this dialogue, and then you think about, "Gee, I wish I could have rewritten this."

Kenny: Here we go. That's a good speed, right?

Bill Walton: That's good speed.

Kenny: Yeah, here we go. All right, you can roll again. Roll, please.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Kenny: One second, hold on.

Marine: Maybe you should wait 'til some of the text gets up a little bit higher.

Kenny: Yes. You should always have what you're reading at the top, yeah. Okay, we're rolling when you're ready.

Bill Walton: But, could this really happen? With me to talk about this very big picture species protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darling and Ron Maxwell.

Bill Walton: Harry Darlington ... Let me start it over again.

Bill Walton: I don't know what's happening here, guys. I've never really fucked this up this much, but ... I think it's because I'm really emotionally engaged today in a way that I'm not usually. This has really been quite moving.

Skip Darlington: Oh, thank you.

Bill Walton: That last piece, getting into this big game hunting topic, I'd love to cover that. We can alienate anybody who's got a gun.

Kenny: Here we go.

Ron Maxwell: Remind me-

Sarah: [crosstalk 01:43:59]-

Ron Maxwell: ... before we leave-

Sarah: ... say that a lot of people have real opinions on it without having any thought.

Bill Walton: Without knowing anything, yeah.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, because people don't know the scale of what's going on. Without the knowledge, what's wrong with hunting? If you just start with the hunting argument, you're going to lose it, because hunting is regarded as a fundamental American right. Then, as soon as you go there, nobody's listening to anybody you said. You can never start with the game hunting thing. That's much later in the conversation.

Kenny: Okay. All right, go ahead and roll.

Sarah: Okay.

Bill Walton: Are we good?

Kenny: Yeah. Now, just a second. I think one of the things too is you're rushing into it each time.

Bill Walton: Mokay.

Kenny: Let's compose ourselves.

Marine: [inaudible 01:44:38].

Bill Walton: You mean [inaudible 01:44:41].

Marine: Yeah, there you go.

Bill Walton: [inaudible 01:44:44], okay.

Kenny: All right. All right, when you're ready.

Bill Walton: With me to talk about this very big picture species protection concept and to take a close look at what's happening to African elephants are Skipper Darlington and Ron Maxwell.

Bill Walton: Harry Skipper Darlington is founder and chairman of Africa ASAP and has been at the forefront of the environmental movement for decades. Skipper, a pilot and innovator, founded Africa SAP to stop the horrific slaughter of elephants in Africa through his vision of a protective eye in the sky. Skipper, welcome.

Skip Darlington: Thank you, Bill.

Bill Walton: Ronald Maxwell is a film director and writer. His epic Civil War films, Gettysburg, Gods and Generals, and Copperhead, have established Ron as the cinema's leading interpreter of the Civil War and that horrible era of ... We lost our teleprompter, guys.

Kenny: No.

Sarah: Ugh, oh, God.

Ron Maxwell: In the summer of '71, I was in the south of Spain-

Bill Walton: Can you just edit this?

Ron Maxwell: You just need that paragraph saying I'm not a leader. That's all we really, really need.

Bill Walton: Okay, let's just do the last paragraph.

Marine: You can do Ron's-

Bill Walton: Just give me, [crosstalk 01:46:03]-

Marine: ... introduction-

Bill Walton: ... extra for editing.

Kenny: It's not about that. Yeah, okay.

Marine: Let's just-

Ron Maxwell: That's what you really-

Marine: ... do Ron's-

Ron Maxwell: ... need.

Marine: ... introduction.

Ron Maxwell: Because, you got a couple of the whole thing in the beginning [crosstalk 01:46:09]-

Bill Walton: Let me just do Ron's.

Ron Maxwell: ... all of us.

Kenny: Yeah-

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Kenny: ... [crosstalk 01:46:11]-

Bill Walton: Let me just do Ron's. I'll do Ron's.

Ron Maxwell: Because, the one you did an hour ago-

Kenny: You need me to still do this.

Ron Maxwell: ... was great.

Bill Walton: I'll do Ron.

Marine: Do we turn him off?

Kenny: No, wait a minute.

Sarah: I turned mine-

Marine: Studio-

Sarah: ... off.

Marine: ... [crosstalk 01:46:18].

Ron Maxwell: I'll tell you the Freddie Jones'-

Kenny: Now, it's playing.

Ron Maxwell: ... story later [crosstalk 01:46:20]-

Marine: Now, we [crosstalk 01:46:21]-

Skip Darlington: Actually, on the very first one though, you said American.

Marine: And, it's Half-Earth.

Skip Darlington: The one-

Marine: No. You went-

Skip Darlington: ... we ran all the way-

Marine: ... back-

Skip Darlington: ... through.

Marine: ... too far down.

Ron Maxwell: No, no. He had it right.

Kenny: Oh, it's not that one.

Marine: No.

Skip Darlington: The very first one?

Marine: You went too far down.

Skip Darlington: I don't think so.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, well, he's got, but he's got a number of those. He's got a number of Africa ASAP.

Bill Walton: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ron Maxwell: They've got a number of-

Skip Darlington: Yeah, yeah, exactly.

Ron Maxwell: They've got another [crosstalk 01:46:41]-

Skip Darlington: The very first one, I didn't say anything, but I think it was-

Bill Walton: He's very good at making-

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Bill Walton: ... me look better than I am.

Ron Maxwell: You got all the pieces.

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Sarah: Yeah.

Ron Maxwell: The only piece you need, it's my fault we're still here. Because, the only piece we need is that I'm not a leader, and then we got everything.

Kenny: All right, this-

Bill Walton: Even though neither Skipper nor I believe-

Kenny: ... this actually-

Bill Walton: ... that.

Kenny: ... has to roll.

Ron Maxwell: Well-

Kenny: Let's just do-

Ron Maxwell: ... thank you.

Kenny: ... this.

Skip Darlington: No.

Kenny: Let's do this if you don't mind. This actually has to roll to that point anyway. Maybe we just roll when it gets to that point where you say, "with me," we'll give it one last shot, since we got to get to that point anyway.

Sarah: I can-

Bill Walton: You want me to do Skipper, or can I just go straight to Ron?

Kenny: Yeah, you could go straight to Ron.

Bill Walton: Let's go straight to Ron. We've got Skipper.

Skip Darlington: I hope that's not for me.

Bill Walton: I think I said Africa in the right place, right?

Sarah: Okay, my camera's off.

Marine: Nope, my phone's here.

Kenny: Let's everybody roll, please.

Sarah: Okay.

Bill Walton: We are waiting for our transcript.

Kenny: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Skip Darlington: No one's going to notice that our water glasses are empty, are they?

Kenny: No.

Marine: No.

Sarah: No.

Marine: Is your ...

Kenny: Marine, could you slow it down? I couldn't tell if you [inaudible 01:47:44].

Bill Walton: Speak the speech trippingly on the tongue. Don't saw the air with your hands.

Ron Maxwell: That's Beto O'Rourke.

Bill Walton: Oh, yeah. He ought to pay more attention.

Ron Maxwell: You notice they're not making fun of him on Saturday Night Live. He's like the easiest one they could caricature of the bunch.

Bill Walton: Yeah.

Kenny: Okay, here we come.

Bill Walton: Okay, get ready, guys, here we come.

Bill Walton: Ronald Maxwell is a film director and writer. His epic Civil War films, Gettysburg, Gods and Generals, and Copperhead, have established Ron as the cinema's leading interpreter of that complex, lethal, heroic period in American history. In addition to his highly regarded work in film, Ron is a seriously considered citizen in the worldwide habitat and species protection movement. Ron, thanks for joining.

Ron Maxwell: Great to be with you.

Ron Maxwell: I think we want committed citizen. I think you said something else. What did I hear?

Skip Darlington: Oh.

Kenny: A seriously committed citizen, I think.

Bill Walton: All right, I'll do it again.

Ron Maxwell: I heard something else, but-

Bill Walton: Can we back it up?

Kenny: Yeah, we can do that. Just don't let it stop.

Marine: Yeah.

Kenny: Okay.

Ron Maxwell: I heard something else. Oh, I heard seriously considered citizen.

Kenny: Oh, you-

Marine: Yes, it was.

Kenny: I think you're right.

Ron Maxwell: Seriously considered citizen, something didn't-

Kenny: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Skip Darlington: Yeah.

Kenny: No, it's good. It's good. It's good.

Marine: Right there.

Kenny: No, I have to go a bit further back.

Ron Maxwell: But, I mustn't forget to tell you the Freddie Jones story before we part company, because you will appreciate it.

Bill Walton: What's the Freddie Jones story, long or short?

Ron Maxwell: Short.

Bill Walton: Okay.

Ron Maxwell: Not for camera, it's a movie anecdote.

Kenny: All right. [inaudible 01:49:55], there we go. [inaudible] fast, there we go. Okay, here we go, standby. Still, are you rolling?

Marine: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Kenny: Wait a minute, you got a flashing light here. Let's see if we're running out of media. Hang on just a minute. We got three minutes left, we're good.

Bill Walton: We're good. I'm going to-

Kenny: Yes, we are.

Bill Walton: ... nail this.

Kenny: Standby.

Bill Walton: We're done.

Kenny: Hang on. Rolling, you rolling? Okay, go ahead.

Bill Walton: Ronald Maxwell is a film director and writer. His epic Civil War films, Gettysburg, Gods and Generals, and Copperhead, have established Ron as the cinema's leading interpreter of that complex, lethal, heroic period in American history. In addition to his highly regarded work in film, Ron is a seriously concerned citizen in the worldwide habitat and species protection movement. Ron, thanks for joining.

Ron Maxwell: Great to be with you, Bill.

Kenny: All right!

Marine: Whoo!

Skip Darlington: Nailed it.

Kenny: Nailed it!

Marine: Yeah!

Ron Maxwell: Okay, so-

Bill Walton: What's your story?

Ron Maxwell: ... summer of '71-

Bill Walton: This is the first time I had to go through all that. I think it's because I'm with a real filmmaker. I think it's true.

Sarah: I think it's true.

Bill Walton: I think there's an extra element of okay, Ron's worked with all these great actors, so-

Ron Maxwell: Well, in the summer of '71, I was in Almeria, Spain as Charlton Heston's personal assistant director.

Bill Walton: See that's what I mean.

- Kenny: A good thing he didn't tell you that earlier.
- Ron Maxwell: What a personal assistant as we all know does is get the director his coffee, make sure his laundry goes out on time, that kind of thing, He was a great guy, and I loved him. We stayed friends 'til the day he died.
- Ron Maxwell: That summer, Freddie Jones, a wonderful British actor now gone, played one of Pompey's pirates. There's a scene when Antony, one of the pirates comes up, and he's supposed to say, "Mark Antony you have put me to some," a grievance, and he has a little soliloquy, and he walks up, so Antony's on his horseback [inaudible 01:52:01], and in the background is a whole fleet before the Battle of Actium. This is done with a glass shot. He had one real boat, in other words, it's a big shot to set up.
- Ron Maxwell: I'm sitting behind the camera, because he was not just directing, he was playing Antony. It was a great experience for me, because I'd be sitting right with the cameraman, and he'd be looking at me for a thumb's up or a thumb's down. I was two years out of film school at that point.
- Ron Maxwell: Freddie Jones, everybody's in the positions, 500 extras, horses, boat's out there, walkie-talkies, action. Freddie Jones walks up into the camera, and he goes, "Mark Antony ... Fuck." Cut.
- Ron Maxwell: Everybody's got to go back. 500 guys go back. The boat's got to go back. 30 minutes later, take 2, "Mark Antony ... Fuck." This went on for 45 minutes.
- Ron Maxwell: Finally, he couldn't get through. He had a mental block. This is an accomplished Shakespearean actor. He couldn't, we couldn't get the whole thing, we did it in pieces.
- Bill Walton: I'm now very familiar with that concept. Every time I say America, I'm going to say Africa.
- Marine: Right.
- Ron Maxwell: It took us half the day, because we had to do it in pieces. We couldn't do it in one big beautiful take.
- Skip Darlington: Same thing happened to me, I was trying to impress a pretty young lady, and so I allowed her to interview me in a balloon as I was flying. But, as I was flying I noticed a storm was coming up, and I had a very simple like three sentences to say. I did it 12 times, and I still didn't get it right, because I was looking at the storm trying to-
- Bill Walton: Sure.

Skip Darlington: ... fly the balloon, and I couldn't. It was three sentences though, and so I didn't impress her very much.

Bill Walton: I write the copy for this.

Ron Maxwell: That's the movie.

Bill Walton: Oh, yeah, so do you get a credit on this?

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, I got a credit as assistant director. It's on my IMDb list of credits.

Bill Walton: Is it a good movie?

Ron Maxwell: It has its moments but, in the totality, no. Chuck was a wonderful actor as we know, great guy, but wasn't the best director in the world.

Bill Walton: That's a different-

Ron Maxwell: He was-

Bill Walton: ... skill set.

Ron Maxwell: ... very competent, very competent, but it's not the best version of Antony and Cleopatra available.

Ron Maxwell: The cast, the individual parts were very good. Fernando Rey was in it. There was a mixed Spanish, English cast with Hildegard Neil. John Castle who became my daughter's godfather. My daughter was born at the end of that shoot. We're still friends to this day. He played Octavius.

Ron Maxwell: For me, it was a great life experience. Joe Canutt was the second unit director. Joe Canutt and his brother, Tab, did all the stunts in those Golden Age movies where Charlton Heston played Ben-Hur, or Charlton Heston played El Cid. All the jousting, the chariot race, all that stuff was done by Joe Canutt. I'd just be walking around with Joe Canutt on the second unit and prepping the movies. It was for me, that's, I was directly connected with the Old Hollywood, the Hollywood of William Wyler and Fred Zinneman-

Bill Walton: That's great.

Ron Maxwell: ... John Huston, and [inaudible 01:55:21]-

Bill Walton: That's the Hollywood, if I could go back in time, that's where I'd want to be.

Ron Maxwell: His father, Yakima Canutt was the guy that goes under the harness in Stagecoach, and he was the first and only stuntman to get an honorary

Academy Award, because he invented stunt work in the movies. That's the John Ford movie-

Skip Darlington: Wow.

Ron Maxwell: ... Stagecoach.

Bill Walton: In 1939.

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, yeah, so it's a-

Skip Darlington: God, I remember that scene.

Ron Maxwell: ... great year for the movies. That, to me, such a great experience, because it was absolutely connecting me with a tradition of the Old Hollywood, and how things were done.

Bill Walton: Well, thank you, guys. This is-

Skip Darlington: Thank you, Bill.

Bill Walton: This is-

Ron Maxwell: Yeah, this has been fun-

Bill Walton: I can't wait 'til we see the finished work.

Ron Maxwell: ... and I think we're here, because we want to-

Skip Darlington: Let's, let's-