

Xander's Meanders #4 – Viridian Forest

[Pokédex chimes as it powers up.]

[Shoes crunch on dirt, bug and birds chirp throughout.]

Xander: Okay! So I'm here in the Viridian Forest—currently on fire—with Bug Trainer Doug. And he's gonna talk to us about what it's like to train Bugs when your name is Doug. Hey, Doug!

Doug: Is that what this is?

Xander: Well—

Doug: I thought you were gonna ask me questions. I have to just talk about stuff?

Xander: Well...wait...

Doug: Can we start over? I don't—

Xander: Doug, how d'you think question—

Doug: You said I'm gonna interview you and then you said—

Xander: Doug.

Doug: What?

Xander: How d'you think questions work?

Doug: Well, usually there's a question mark at the end.

Xander: Well that was...that was the introduction to the [sighs] never mind. Doug, how long have—

Doug: Oooh! Oh, intwoduc- oh, I'm sowwy, I'm sowwy.

Xander: It's okay.

Doug: Okay. Let's take it again. Let's take it again.

Xander: Oh [sighs] we don't—Fine.

[Cloth scrapes across microphone as **Xander** turns it off. Pokédex chimes as it powers up.]

Okay! So I'm here with D- Bug Trainer D- [quiet] Ah, fuck. Now I'm all turned around. Hey, Doug, how long have you been training bugs for? Any- and wha- and why- okay, two questions. One—

[Sage stifles laughter.]

—h-how *long* have you been training bugs?

Doug: Uh-huh.

Xander: And two, *why* bugs?

Doug: So I've been twaining bugs for about...couple months. It's been about s-six weeks.

Xander: What?

Doug: Aaand—couple months, six weeks—

Xander: Tha... [mumbles] 'kay whatever...

Doug: —and so I, uh, I used ta catch bugs under the logs in my backya'd. I'm actually fwom Cewulean, and my dad lives there. He's a bike shop own'a. And so, he'd be at work, and I would take my bike, and I would go out in my backyard or I'd go to the wiver. And I'd find all these cool bugs, uh, but, you know they weren't Pokémon. They were just regular bugs. So they were kinda boring.

Xander: Thank you for clearing that up for everybody.

Doug: Yeah, so then I, uh, I eventually- it was like, hey Dad, can I go, uh, to Viwidian Fowest and try to be a Pokémon Twainer. He's like, son that sounds great. So, I grabbed a net and I grabbed a straw hat, and I went out there. And it turns out, I am one of many Bug Twainers who had the same, uh, style of clothing.

Xander: I was gonna ask if there was like a- a club where you guys got the hat, 'cause you- there's a lot o' you hangin' around.

Doug: Yeah, we all have stwaw hats and, like, overalls and a net. And I...you know, I don't know. I guess it's just Bug Twainers think alike, you know? Bug Twainers really like to wear straw hats.

I mean, it looks good, doesn't it?

Xander: ...Uh, yeah. Yeah, man. It's- it's a good- it's a good...

Doug: It's cool?

Xander: Good fit. Yes! 100%. Um, let's- let's keep walking a bit. This is getting a bit [coughs] smokey.

[Doug clears his throat.]

Um. So that's- that's- that's- that's amazing. Now, d'you want to train bugs all the way to the Elite Four or you lookin' to... What do—

Doug: Oh, that'd be cool.

Xander: Yeah?

Doug: Th-that'd be cool.

Xander: O-okay.

Doug: Yeah, that'd be- Yeah, that'd be pretty sick.

Xander: Neat.

Doug: I, uh, yeah I got a Weedle. A wittle Weedle deedle.

Xander: Oh yeah, no. No, we know. I- yeah.

Doug: Yeah.

Xander: Yeah.

Doug: Oh, that's been—

Xander: Oh, *they* don't know. Yeah, yeah. Doug, what- what, uh, what- what's your favorite Bug Pokémon? What's your...

Doug: Uh, prob'ly the Weedle. The wittle Weedle. Uh—

Xander: D'you- uh-huh?

Doug: —one day- one day he's gonna be a Kakuna, and then another day he'll be a Beedwill.

Xander: Beedwill. Right on. I've n- I don't know what that is. But that sounds exciting.

Dd No, Beedwill.

Xander: Yeah. Beedwill.

Doug: No, Beedwill.

Xander: Yea—

Doug: No, there- there's no W. It's Beedwill.

Xander: Oh. Oh. Oh! Oh. Uh, right. Beed- Beedrill- Bee...

Doug: Yeah, there you go.

Xander: Beedrill?

[Sage stifles laughter.]

Does it have like—

Doug: You have some sort of accent?

Xander: ...Yes. I'm from...the tr...Trailos region.

[Beat.]

Doug: Never heard o' that one.

Xander: Yeah, it's pretty far away. Anyways. Um, yeah, super great. Uh, we should...I'm, uh, we should keep movin'. In fact I think we're gonna cut...we're gonna call this one done.

Doug: Yeah, the smoke's kinda catchin' up. We gotta finish that battle.

Xander: Uh, uh, oh boy. You know, I think we should just take this as a—

Doug: Oh no, we're gonna finish that battle and—

Xander: Right *now*?

Doug: —and you're gonna- and- well, I mean, once we catch up with your fwiends.

Xander: [whispers] Oh, shit.

Doug: —and then- and then you're gonna give me \$100 once I kick yo ass.

Xander: Oh, that's right, the money thing. Uh, Doug, I'm gonna level with you here.

[Footsteps stop.]

[sighs] You're not gonna win. Don't- don't challenge us.

Doug: [loud] Is that a thweat? You piece o' shit! You betta get ready!

Xander: It's— [sighs]

Doug: Hey! Hey other two twainers!

[**Doug** runs off to catch the others.]

Other two twainers, hey! Hey, let's finish that battle!

Xander: Alright, I guess we're done here. Bye.

[Cloth scrapes across microphone as **Xander** turns it off.]