

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

March has been busy month for the Board and Officers of Ray Neirle Chapter of TU. We have been trying to set up all of the activities for the year. As things become finalized they will be posted in the Newsletter. So far the Fly Tying Classes have been a success. The invitation sent to the Boy Scout Council of Camden County paid off. The "basic table" grew to many tables with more than 20 people involved. Boy Scouts made up the bulk of the group. A big thanks goes out to Ed Braun for managing and instructing the basic classes. Ed worked well with the youngster and should be commended on his efforts. I would also like to thank all of the members who assisted Ed with such a large group.

Jim Nash, Tom Smithwick, Tim Egan and Ken Odasz handled the advanced classes. A great job done by all and I would like to congratulate Tom on his up coming retirement.

For our March monthly meeting we are again having Craig Hull, a commercial tier, do a demonstration on dubbing tricks and techniques. Craig will also bring his huge selection of flies, which will be available for very reasonable prices. This would be a great opportunity if you were planning to stock up on flies for the season.

I would also like to thank Carl Wyckoff for all of his efforts in putting together our Banquet. You will most likely receive this Newsletter before the banquet date of March 24th. And this year's "Rod Raffle" includes a "Life Time" membership to Trout Unlimited. Carl works very hard "getting it all together" so with that in mind we should support him by attending.

I would also like to thank Jim Nash for stepping in on the "Trout in the Classroom" project at Cinnaminson High School. The State TU is now setting up the program for next year and there are a number of schools in our area that are expressing an interest in the program. We will probably need more than one person for next year.

Jerry Martina is now managing the TU Library. He has updated the list of items and working on converting them to DVD's. If you have anything out on loan now would be a good time to return it so Jerry can continue with the updating. Thanks Jerry.

I am still looking for volunteers to work with the Boy Scout fly fishing merit badge and a possible 4-H fly fishing club. This might be a good time to think about stepping forward and volunteering.

Each year I run a trip to the Little Lehigh on the first day of trout season. Well this year that day is March 31st for the Southeastern 18 counties of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Boating and Fishing Commission moved the date up from the usual second Saturday in April. It may be a little chilly but I'd love to have you join us.

Bob Powell