

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

After getting through our version of "March Madness" April has started off being a great month with the opening of fishing season. But before proceeding it's necessary to review March's activities. I would like to start by thanking Carl Wyckoff for his outstanding job on the Banquet and program presentation. If you were there you know what I mean. There were 60 people attending which I believe is a record number. Some other people should be thanked as well. Steve Monahan's generous donations were greatly appreciated; Lou Neirle's picture series of Ray and his Bio added to our sense of history and Jim Nash's donated watercolor painting really put things over the top. Congratulations to Tim Egan and Gerry Martina, Tim for winning the Raffle Rod and Lifetime membership to TU and Gerry for being awarded the "Ray Neirle" award. Both are very deserving of these accomplishments.

As the fishing season gets under way think about taking lots of pictures. Carl's programs have been such a success because he has had good material. Help Carl out for next year by sending those pictures.

In last month's letter I thanked Jim Nash for his efforts in the "Trout in the Classroom" program. The State Council TU has informed me that the nationwide program is being expanded for 2007 in New Jersey. We could possibly have anywhere from seven to fourteen schools in our area running the program. If that becomes the case we will need help from the membership. If you are interested see either Jim or myself. If you would like to learn more about the program visit the website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/troutinclassroom.htm>

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. I will be attending a "Merit Badge Counselor" workshop on April 17th so things are really moving forward.

In closing I do have to apologize for our "No Show" speaker last month and thank Carl Wyckoff for quickly coming to my rescue with his presentation. The original speaker Craig Hull, as an offering to atone for his "Senior Moment", will be our speaker at the June meeting. Craig will be bringing all of his flies, doing a demonstration and presenting a free day for one person with him on the Yellow Breeches. We are planning to raffle off the "Day Trip" by selling tickets at the April, May and June meetings. Craig will pull the winning ticket at the June meeting. My wife Sue Ellen and I spent a day on the Yellow Breeches with Craig last July and it was a very rewarding and educational. We highly recommend it.

Bob Powell