

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is not much to report as for the good of the Chapter other than we are still looking for some volunteers to help out with the Trout in the Classroom Project for next year, a stream clean up of Mason's Run with the Boy Scouts is scheduled for early June and the continuation of the raffle for the Craig Hull, Day on the Yellow Breeches. I will take my allotted space and approach the philosophical question of "Why we fly fish?".

I believe I've got an answer to that question. I've just returned from an Alaskan Steelhead trip with Carl Wyckoff, Tim Egan and Alex Sinelnik. It was an outstanding event. It wasn't outstanding because I caught a lot of fish the truth is I didn't. It certainly isn't enjoyable awaking at 3:30 am to prepare for a float trip or hiking 2 ½ to 3 miles across root entangled trails with intermittent deep snow drifts just to get to a good fishing hole or standing waist deep in 37 degree water casting again and again. So what might be the motivation, where's the reward?

For some it may be the challenge of outsmarting the fish, number of fish caught or the beauty of the scenery. All of these are part of it but for me the major factor is the camaraderie. It's the sharing of a common experience with fellow fly fishermen that is an overwhelmingly powerful influence. I've had the good fortune of being connected to some great guys through my years of fly-fishing and for that I am very thankful. So for those of you who are solitary fishers consider joining in on future trips. I believe you will find it very rewarding.

See you at the meeting May 30th.

Bob Powell