

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to start off by thanking Brian Burns for taking the time to write an excellent article on the "Saving of Mason's Run". The article gave an overview of the history of the stream and included "before and after" pictures. I forwarded the article to the State Council and hopefully it will be forwarded to the National TU. That would be great to have it appear in "Trout" magazine. The article will appear on the State TU website. Also I presented a copy to the membership at last month's meeting and anyone wishing a copy may Email me (rip-sep@comcast.net) and I'll forward a copy in "Word" format.

Next on my "People to Thank" list would be Carl Wyckoff and his assistants Tim Egan and Bill Ceravolo. With their efforts we will be having our annual barbeque at this month's meeting. This is our most relaxed meeting of the year so come out and enjoy the food, beer and good company. Steve Monahan will be there with his demo rods for you to check out. Bring your fishing gear because Square Circle just stocked the lake with 42 large mouth bass and a few hybrid striped bass so the fishing is good. We will be having an accuracy-casting contest. The distances will be 20ft, 30ft and 45ft with 7wt 9ft rod being the upper limit usable. Ed Braun, last year's winner, will be the guy to beat. Top prize is yet to be determined. Remember we'll be starting the barbeque at 6:30pm.

I would like to thank Ben Read and Jim Nash for joining me in attending a marathon TU State Council meeting. The meeting was held at the Pequest Hatchery with the promise to fish the Education pond after. The meeting convened at 10:00 am and adjourned at 3:45pm. We no sooner arrived at the pond when it started to rain. Yes, we caught lots of nice fish but that's a small reward for sitting through a 5 ³/₄ hour meeting. I will share some of the meeting highlights at our meeting.

It would be nice if TU could remain apolitical but there are bills in the Assembly and Senate in New Jersey that seriously threaten the sportsmen way of life. The bills, A-3275 and S-2042, are designed to restructure the Fish and Game Council from an eclectic group of knowledgeable individuals to a group of political appointees. If you are unaware of the activities of the Council you may say "So What?" but the Council controls almost all aspects of hunting and fishing in the state. The Governor has been slowly trying to strip the Council of their power so he can take control.

This is his boldest move yet and if successful will mean the eventual end of hunting and fishing in the State.

See you at the meeting July 25th.

Bob Powell