

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to start off with a somewhat belated congratulations to Tom Smithwick. Tom was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum "Rod Makers Hall of Fame" back in September. The Hall of Fame is a fairly select group of individuals who have contributed to the advancement of cane rod building. Most TU chapters would be delighted to have one of their members advanced to such a level of recognition but keep in mind we have two. Bill Fink was also inducted a few years ago.

Our 2008 schedule has been finalized and should go as planned. Our next event being Elections and we will be accepting nominations at the November meeting. If you are interested in helping run the chapter please let me know.

I am trying to line up fly tiers for our fly tying classes. Ed Braun has agreed to manage the "Beginners Table" and he could use some help. I'm still looking for contributors to the "Advanced Table". Any and all help will be appreciated.

The Banquet is planned for mid-March. We had a great time last year and hope to see you there again this year.

It has been a hectic yet rewarding year for me as a first year president. My focus on increased membership and youth involvement worked out. We've added a few new members, reached out to the youth by inviting the scouts to our fly tying classes and received the fly-fishing merit badge counselor rating. Jim Nash also got us involved in "Trout In The Classroom". Added bonuses for the year were the addition of our PC driven projector, that allows members to present in-house programs, which may I add were very good, and the creation of our new web site (www.sjtrout.org) done by Bill Ceravolo. I could not have done these things alone and thanks to all those who helped through the year.

There is one area that did slip by me and I now have to address it as we are rolling toward 2008, and that is our \$15.00 Activity Fee. The 2008 fee will be due starting in January but that's only part of what I have to address. It seems that 47% of our active members have yet to pay the 2007 fee. This fee is not part of your National TU dues and I do suggest you pay that too. The Activity Fee is the money we use to provide outside speakers, mail the Newsletter and operate the web site. Letters are being sent to remind those in arrears that it is not too late. So please stay involved, pay your national dues and our activity fee.

This month we have Ozzie Ozefovich as a guest speaker. "Underwater Ozzie" as he is sometimes called will be addressing *Atlantic Salmon Fishing*. A video presentation on the Life Cycle of the Atlantic Salmon; Fishing the Matepedia, the Restigouche, and the Miramichi Rivers in Canada; A look at Good and Bad Canadian guides, and of course, Underwater Video of the Salmon.

See you at the meeting November 28th.

Bob Powell