**Greetings from the President!**

It’s April! Shad fishing will soon be on us. I tried it for the first time last year and had very little success. I’ll hope for better luck this year. It’s fun to figure out a new fishery, even when you fail. They call shad the ‘poor man’s tarpon or steelhead’ (depending on who you talk to). Flashy flies work best, I’m told. I did catch one on a little spoon last spring that a fellow handed me when I said I was having no luck. It worked and was light enough to cast on my 2-weight, but I’d rather use flies. Practice makes perfect?!?

The **Banquet** was a smashing success! The most important thing was that everyone seemed to have fun. The food was great, the hall looked fabulous, the auction donations were many and good ones – we had a whole lot of flies and other great stuff for our fundraising efforts – and the classical guitar music had a nice touch as well. Lots of talk about conservation took place, with NOAA and MA DER well represented, along with a few words about the MA/RI TU Council and Stripers Forever thrown in. Wayne Castonguay was honored with NETU’s first Special Conservation Award, and we had a surprise as well, in honoring our Conservation Committee “Dream Team” of Greg Murrer, Mike O’Neill and Chett Walsh with our new “Correa-LeJeune Chapter Service Awards”… LOL. All three missed our November meeting last fall, when we cooked up this plan and we kept it secret from them. It was a nice surprise for everyone there…

But just for the moment, let’s focus on what we have right here: **another NETU meeting next Monday, April 4th**, with an exciting presentation of fly tying expertise by **Michael Brucado** at our normal meeting place at the IRWA Headquarters (“Riverbend”) at 143 County Road in Ipswich. Our own Mike O’Neill will prepare a genuine St. Patty’s Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage for us, so be there at 6:00PM for a great meal for a contribution of just $5.00! The meeting will start at 7:00PM and the business meeting will then begin around or a bit after 8:00PM. We have lots going on, so please stay on for that meeting!

For those who were unable to make it to our **2016 NETU Fundraising Banquet**, we are sorry if you didn’t purchase your tickets before we were SOLD OUT! We’re looking for a larger venue for our 2017 event… We hate to turn people away, although it was a nice sort of problem to have. Next year we’ll do better!

We have many projects underway and in the planning stages right now. Please come to our meeting to find out more about what we’re doing! And our sincerest ***Thanks!*** to all those who contributed gifts and/or time to our banquet. You helped to make it a great success. And please stay tuned: we’re going to open an on-line auction for the **Zulu Nyala African Photo Safari trip** that didn’t sell at the auction. It’s a wonderful trip and we needed to inform people better about it in advance. You’ll get another chance!

Tight lines!

Fred Jennings

NETU President