

Dear CFFCM Member,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had the opportunity to wet a line this spring.

On Saturday, May 24, we will be holding the 27th Annual Members Meeting in our education building at 10:00AM. Our annual dinner and fund raising auction will be held that evening at Kings Catering. To round out the weekend, NYS DEC will provide a fish sampling and survey of our pond on Friday afternoon and we will have a *three fly* fishing derby on Sunday. I think you will enjoy watching both events, if not joining in the fishing derby.

As members, you know we provide a great service to the fly fishing community. We host a variety of events and activities open to all, youth and adult educational programs, demonstrations, and now, publishing. All of this is accomplished through your financial support and endorsement of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. As Ernie Schwiebert aptly put it, "...some museums are repositories for dead things, The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is alive".

This Annual Dinner and auction is a very important financial component to our organization. It contributes 15% of our total annual operating budget of approximately \$240,000. That's right; we pay all salaries and operational costs for our facility on less than \$240,000 a year. Annual membership dues account for another 30% and the 55% balance comes from events, activities, and other donations. Although we are often financially challenged with unexpected expenses for plumbing and heating, we do manage to get by.

Enclosed, please find the invitation to our Dinner, a list of some early auction items, and raffle tickets that ultimately contribute to meeting our financial needs.

In this time of economic uncertainties, we will continue to maintain our role as the hub of the world of fly fishing. We have come a long way in reaching many goals and look forward to those ahead. I look to you as proud members to help us meet new challenges. We welcome your input. Please join us on May 24 and see first hand what we have accomplished and learn more of our exciting plans for the future. Together we have built an amazing place for fly fishing.

Thank you for your continued and future support.

Regards,

Miriam Stone
President