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Cover Photo: *Andrew Connell IFFF CCI from Melbourne, Australia with the next generation of fly fishers during Kids Fishing Day at the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club, Yarrambat, Melbourne, Australia*



EDP As A Quality Assurance Program

by David D. Diaz

When the Casting Board of Governors approved the Examiner Development Pathway (EDP) in September 2013, it initiated a formal quality assurance program for examiners in the Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) in order to help resolve the growing problem of inconsistent candidate testing structure throughout the program.

For 20 years the CICP presumed that a new MCI would be a competent examiner because he or she had passed the MCI test. The organization asked MCIs who wanted examiner status to have on-the-job training with experienced examiners. The process was casual. We had no prescription for number of observations nor for the actual role on the examining teams that new MCIs would assume. We also couldn't know whether their scoring of a candidate's performance was included in the tally or if the new MCI was allowed to address the candidate (and if so what were his/her limits and responsibilities)? We trusted that the experienced examiners would handle all of the training issues without a written list of rules and requirements. That mainly was because CICP examiners exclusively had been members of the CBOG, and most of them were celebrities who would have ignored any prescription.

Resolving the problem of inconsistent examinations

due to of disparate standards was a central objective of the EDP. Regional examiner preferences were apparent. The problem to be solved was not simply good standards versus bad standards. It was that the CICP had too many standards at the individual level, and the CICP had none at the organizational level.

By looking to the third CICP Examiner group—the Two-Handed Casting Instructor (THCI) examiners—the solution was apparent. Under the leadership of Al Buhr, the THCI Committee had written a formal training regimen for those whom it certified who desired examiner status. In contrast to the casual mode of preparation for its CI and MCI examiners, to become a THCI Examiner one had to successfully work through very specific training experiences to see his boxes checked: observe multiple examinations at a limited authority; then more examinations at a higher authoritative level. Moreover, the THCI Test Committee reserved the privilege of approving who pursued THCI Examiner status and “clarified” that examiners would be expected provide service for the convenience of the CICP, and it kept records of the progress its examiner aspirants made. Thus, THCI expectations for examiner qualification were not personal ones at all.

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EDP As A Quality Assurance Program *continued...*

Rick Williams, who chaired the Strategic Planning Committee for the EDP (SPC), accepted a very steep development curve for the EDP project. The SPC would think through and draft the entire examiner development procedure as a pathway and it would set forth steps toward qualification as a CICP Examiner. The schedule was aggressive and success oriented: finished drafts had to be rigorously reviewed by CICP board members privately and negotiated and reflected upon months in advance of the 2013 summer business meeting. The STP Committee coaxed out the questions and concerns, and answered hundreds of them. Board members approved the EDP program:

- It eliminated the multiple standards problem.
- By instituting written record keeping for examinations, the CICP was calling for accountability for the service provided by and qualification of examiners.
- It propelled the CICP from a mainly social group of individuals to an organization of volunteers with professional quality expectations for themselves and their colleagues.
- A consistent, trained, examiner cadre would be instrumental to establishing the CICP as the most respected fly-casting-instructor organization in the world.

EDP is not Certification

The EDP Quality Assurance program is not a certification requirement. But new and experienced MCIs who desire examiner status will have to meet EDP requirements for CI, MCI, and THCI certification. Until the end of 2016 the Pathway has two tracks. To become IFFF examiners, MCIs certified after Dec. 31, 2013 generally will have to meet the training and service requirements shown in Table 1 of the EDP page on the IFFF website. ([http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Casting/ExaminerDevelopmentPathway\(EDP\)/EDPLevels.aspx](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Casting/ExaminerDevelopmentPathway(EDP)/EDPLevels.aspx))

MCIs certified before Jan. 1, 2016, including all governors and governor emeriti, also will have to meet the training and requirements shown in Table I, However, credit may be given for equivalent experiences when requested. For example, requiring seasoned examiners to observe a CI Test passively in order to experience the texture of a CI examination seems silly because the experience of a Level 1 examination is very well known already. For that case and others, the grandfathered MCIs request for credit will be accepted.

After the implementation period ends on Dec. 31, 2016 the plan is for the full population of IFFF examiners worldwide to be trained and ready for work. Governors will no longer have special examining responsibilities. Then, all IFFF Certifications will be conducted by EDP qualified examiners.

Quality Assurance Requires Records

EDP participants are expected to keep track of teaching, examining, mentoring, and service to the IFFF on a EDP log form. The Casting Coordinator sends a copy of it as soon as an MCI joins the EDP program. At the beginning of the program, handling of forms will be at the level of desktop software services. Later the EDP may be able to move data entry to web based forms. This is a necessary component of quality assurance. At the heart of any QA program is the desire of those in it to improve. Without keeping records there is no measuring true progress or improvement.

The 2014 training workshops given at events in the USA (Long Beach, Atlanta, and Livingston) used training resources for CI, MCI, and THCI examiners that EDP faculty members wrote at the cost of thousands of hours of effort. Eight EDP events are contemplated for 2015 and

EDP As A Quality Assurance Program *continued ...*

eight more for 2016. At training events past and future, participants receive a 260-page printed workbook in a ring-binder which contains all the course material the EDP provides and whose cost is covered by the event fee. Faculty members are expected to provide training services where they are needed as part of their commitment. Faculty, by the way, are selected based on CICP commitment, experience, willingness to contribute, and high competence as examiners. All have attended faculty training sessions at their own expense.

EDP examiner training workshops for CI, MCI, and THCI examiners cover multiple dimensions of the examiner role; e.g., communication skills in training modules such as Four Dynamic Requirements for CI Examiners that result in action not merely disposition. The four are competence, equitability, respect, and preparedness.

A partial list of what is included in that one module is:

- poise between distance and engagement with the candidate
- administrative requirements such as time management
- examining what is in the test not preference
- treatment of the candidate
- knowing the test content well
- resisting the appeal of very attractive casters
- writing explicit and concise descriptions of candidate faults with remedies that can be conveyed easily
- how to be fair to candidates, the CICP, and oneself
- devising prescriptions for future success to candidates who do not succeed.

The Future

Setting sights on the future in first year may seem bold, but in order to mature as an organization, the CICP has to direct its future. To realize long-term planning goals, the means for those ends must be provided for in advance of need.

The EDP Committee and faculty members are aware that examiners currently provide service to the IFFF as a personal expense. Those involved in the program are not deaf to concerns that charging MCIs for EDP Training is an additional burden on those now providing examining services to the IFFF. But everything has to be paid for. Elevating IFFF examining to predictable consistency is the necessary platform for enabling payment to examiners in the future. Aside from the question of professional credibility, payment to examiners faces some practical concerns. Currently, we do not know who our examiners are exactly. Everyone knows a few, but nobody knows them all

The payment prospect is one item on the planning board. Most likely that program will commence modestly. Whether our first step is a stipend for examiners or a reimbursement for their expenses, partially or totally, is not known.

What is known is that candidates have clear preferences for specific examiners or areas of the US. Overseas, candidates in one country will not accept examiners from another. All prefer US examiners. Thus, examiner preferences and avoidance are an international and a domestic problem. Without the accountability that comes from consistency, record keeping, and directed training, directing fees to examiners will result in discord, distrust, an intensification of the problem, not a resolution.

EDP As A Quality Assurance Program *continued ...*

EDP examiners will have the same training, paid the same fees, worked to meet the same teaching, testing, mentoring, and IFFF service requirements, and share a sense of mutual commitment. Their view will be they are all in this together, and that they are professional colleagues.

David Diaz, MCI, lives in Alabama, USA. For the past 20 years his casting students have been interested in learning to cast a fly to fish. He is the former chair of the Casting Board of Governors. He currently chairs the EDP Committee.



David D. Diaz

“The Quintessence of Learning Is Doing.”

from Mel Krieger’s Observations on Teaching

“How many of you had to learn flycasting by yourself”? Invariably, almost everybody raises their hand. There is a holy grail in flycasting. The secret in learning to flycast is - to flycast!

The real secret in golf is-to smack golf balls! After hitting golf balls at a local driving range, I commonly sit for a time watching others. The good golfers, despite their varied styles, hit the ball cleanly and consistently. The lesser players miss hit the ball much of the time. So far in my golf search, I have found only one reference to this simple truth.

Harvey Penick, a hall of fame golf teacher, explained to a beginner who requested lessons “Go home and practice the golf swing until you can consistently clip grass, and then come to me.”

How would you learn or teach someone to balance on a two wheeled bicycle? The answer, of course, is doing it. A similar concept in flycasting would be the timing between back and forward casts: an elementary concept, but a difficult execution for beginners. Other than the most fundamental principles, these basic and essential skills must come from the learner. The old wives’ tale, that overused cliché - “Don’t practice because you may develop bad habits” is more of a deterrent than an asset to learning, especially early learning. A better direction would be Jean Paul Sartre’s philosophy “To do is to be.”



Why write again about fly casting styles, especially with so many fine works out there by extraordinary instructors like Mel Krieger, Joan Wulff, Macauley Lord, Al Kyte, and many other instructors?

The answer is simple: A thorough knowledge of differing casting styles helps us as instructors by making our students' lives easier while they learn to cast. A good instructor needs the tools to help a caster find the casting style that is most comfortable for him.

Many beginning students don't know how to grip the rod or what arm position to adopt, so they instinctively copy the instructor. The problem is that a particular student might be copying a style that is not right for him. As instructors we have to be able to look and understand our student's body structure, musculature, height, or possible injuries, so that we can help them as soon as they start casting to find their most efficient casting style.

As instructors we have to know and teach that there is no single right or wrong way of casting, there is an optimum style for each person. All styles will allow a student to achieve the same result of good loop. The key to a good cast is not casting style, it is a good understanding and implementation of casting mechanics.

Substance and Style

All of us can recognize good casting when we see it. We visually know what a good loop is and we can distinguish it from a bad one. Even fly fishers who are just learning to cast, not yet familiar with the concept of loop, can feel in their hands when they have cast a good loop.

As instructors, there are casters we admire - friends, guides or instructors - and all of them, even with enormous differences, achieve the same result: an efficient loop.

The common elements of all good casting are what we call substance, and they are what every fly fisher must master to improve their casting.

What are the elements/principles that compose the substance?

Frankly, there are differing opinions regarding this matter, but for the purposes of this article, these are my definitions of substance:

- a. proper acceleration of the rod
- b. stopping the rod abruptly to let the line straighten before casting again
- c. moving the rod tip in a straight path.

Fulfilling all these requirements depends largely on the style, together with others which also depend largely on the style (rod bend, rod angle, length, and timing), the cast will always result in a good loop. This idea is further developed in an article by Al Kyte titled Substance and Style Revisited, in the Spring 2010 edition of The Loop.

(Ed Note: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Portals/0/Documents/Casting/The%20Loop/2010.SPRING.LOOP.PDF>)

What happens if we cast without casting substance? The result will be an inefficient cast or incorrect cast, one without sufficient energy, an excessively open loop, or a tailing loop, for example.

Fly Casting Style Revisited *continued...*

Although all good casters share common elements while casting, thereby achieving the same result of an efficient loop, there are marked differences in the way they grip the rod, how they will stand while casting (body stance), and how they move the rod. These differences can be defined as the individual style of each caster. A fly angler's casting style depends on several factors, like muscular capacity, flexibility, height and ultimately the pleasure that a particular style gives to a person. The style that fits your friend may not be the style that best suits your anatomy. A big mistake that anglers often make is to try to copy other's style. Usually tall and relatively stronger people tend to be better at casting distances. However, a weaker caster, like me, must use other styles and movements to achieve the same result of a long cast.

My advice is to advise your students to explore various casting styles to find which one best fits his or her body structure. Advise them to experiment with different grips, different arm postures and stances. Testing all styles will allow them to know what is the optimal for them, so that they can unleash their full potential.

Let's analyze one of the most important aspects of styles: arm position.

There are different arm positions for casting, but, as long as they are performed efficiently, none is really better for casting than the other. Having a style that fits and allow us to increase our potential, is an excellent step into developing a good substance.

There are three basic efficient arm positions, and they all depend on the way the arm moves and where the elbow is when we start the forward cast. These are-front elbow, elbow up to the side, and low elbow.

While each of these positions allows casting both distance and accuracy, some of them are more efficient for some types of casting.

Recommend to your students that they learn to handle all of them; their skill level will substantially improve in all casting situations.

As an instructor you must know and be able to teach all three styles, so that you can help a student who casts with a different style than you.



Front elbow.

This position is one of the most classic and traditional postures of casting. It was used by classic fly fishers but it still has lots of advocates today.

At the beginning of the forward casting the elbow is below and in a straight line with the hand, and throughout the casting the elbow moves in line with the caster's shoulder, without separating from the body.

This position is widely used in accuracy casting. With some modifications, it allows excellent casting for distance, as well.

Fly Casting Style Revisited *continued...*



Elbow up to the side.

In this position, the elbow is separated from the body throughout the cast. When starting the forward cast, the elbow is completely outside the body at shoulder height, at an angle of 90° between the arm and torso and between the forearm and arm.

While this is a position that lacks great precision, its advantage is that the movement incorporates the shoulder, one of the strongest joints the body. This is a style that allows a student to add strength to the cast, it also provides an advantage when casting from float tubes.

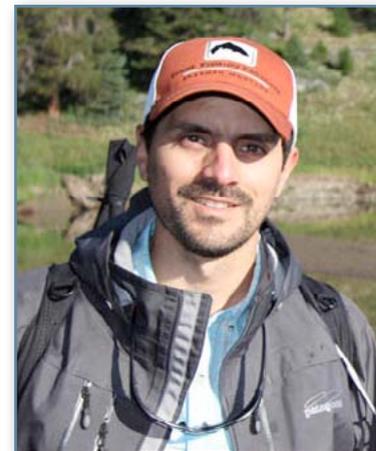
Low elbow

In this position the elbow is kept slightly to the side, moving back and forth accompanied by the shoulder. This combination of arm position with an open stance allows great comfort casting long distances.



Video is in Spanish with English subtitle.

This style allows your student to put a lot of power in to the cast, because the arm travels a greater distance than the other casting styles. It also keeps the fly away from the caster.



Martín Aylwin is a lawyer and casting instructor from Santiago, Chile. He is a Certified Casting Instructor and Master Caster Instructor, certifications he obtained in Montana in 2013 and 2014. He teaches fly casting and fly fishing techniques in Chilean Northern and Southern Patagonia. He recently launched a new fly fishing magazine, *Patagonic Anglers*. See the October 2014 issue here: www.patagonicanglers.com

PRACTICING FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE - Part 2

by Chuck Easterling, Jonesboro, Arkansas, USA

As casting instructors we have an ongoing responsibility to improve our casting and our understanding of casting. We also have a responsibility to those we teach to help them improve through better practice regimens.

Recently, I had the pleasure of being on a Master's testing team with Bryan Martin of the UK. He shared a wonderful quote and I think it is appropriate to close this article with that quote: *"Amateurs practice until they get it right, professionals practice until they cannot get it wrong."* As best I can tell the actual origin of the quote is lost to time but variations of it have been used on several occasions. It is a wonderful thought and conveys what it takes to be exceptional. I believe the best way to develop an effective practice regimen is to work with a mentor or coach who has reached an exceptional level of performance and knowledge. In the end, though, it is up to us to put in enough rod time to translate that coaching into top performance.

This is the second half of an interview regarding practice and improvement with Leslie Holmes, Steve Hollensed, and Al Buhr. I want to thank them for their thoughts. It is evident they have a careful and thoughtful approach to how they practice.

4. What is the most important discovery you made that improved your distance casting? Your accuracy casting?

Steve Hollensed: Distance casting?

My biggest discovery came when I watched Bruce Richards cast at Chuck Easterling's continuing education event in 2006. I had always equated distance with power. Bruce demonstrated (and I was astounded by) how little power was required to cast 100 ft and beyond. Bruce's casts were clean, crisp and very low powered (compared to what I thought a long cast required).

Before that, I was mentally locked in to power casting. Bruce's approach forced me to focus on other aspects of distance casting, and that was a real breakthrough for me. I don't think anyone could have taught this to me with words. Because of this, I am a big believer in continuing education for casting instructors.

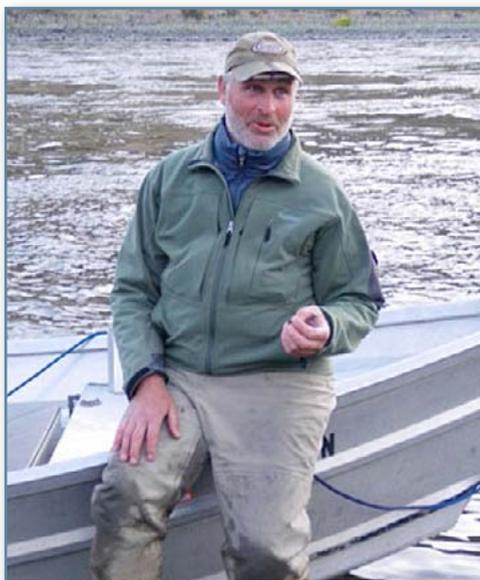
Accuracy? If I want to be really, really accurate, I use a vertical (or near vertical) rod plane and a true elbow-forward style. I never deviate from this. This may not be true for everyone, but it certainly has helped me.



Practicing for Exceptional Performance - Part 2 *continued...*

Although this seems simple and straightforward, I noticed that as target distances got longer, others often tried to deviate from these two concepts and their accuracy began to suffer. I tried it too (other casting styles and non-vertical rod planes) and got the same result -- bad accuracy. My answer was to perfect my elbow-forward style, keep the rod vertical.

Al Buhr: My single-hand fishing employs a lot of shooting line, with minimal false casts to attain distance. Often the back cast room is limited; likewise, the head is moderately short and is well suited for shooting. To attain distance, the haul is important; however, equally important is how the rod-hand straightens the rod. For many years I used 'forced turnover' (single-hand) to create a 'stop,' thereby straightening the rod. Yet, when casting two-handed, I would use an alternative 'stop' method to straighten the rod. I adapted this 'stop' method for single-hand. It requires the base of the hand to be dominant in driving the cast formation. I find casts formed by base-of-the-hand dominance attain greater distance for the effort given.



When the base of the hand is dominant, there is less temptation to rotate the rod prematurely. Early rod rotation can cause the rod tip to fail in tracking straight, resulting in the unrolling line to curve off the

target line as it straightens. Rotating too soon is a natural temptation when making a 'stop' via 'forced turnover.' By placing focus on 'pulling the rod straight,' shifts the mind-set on the core task of a 'stop,' which is to straighten the bent rod.

Dominance in the base of the hand speeds the pace of the rod straightening while making for consistent tracking to the target. Enhanced control in straightening the rod (line speed) and in tracking improves my distance and accuracy.

Leslie Holmes: I think my physical make-up comes into play on this one. I am 6' 2" inches tall, lean and flexible, weighing 12.5 stone with double joints in arms, hands and knees. I'm normally a right-hand dominant caster. I tend to cast slightly off shoulder, 10 to 15 degrees off my casting side.



When practicing distance casting I begin by addressing the target square on with the line laid out 55 feet in front of me. Then, I'll open my stance with my left foot 4 feet in front and in line with my right foot and lean forward with the rod tip low to the ground. I pinch the fly line with my left thumb and index finger just below the stripping guide. At this point all of my body weight is forward on my left foot.

Practicing for Exceptional Performance - Part 2 *continued...*

This is my ready position to start the casting cycle. Next I will start to move from the hips and shoulders to the rear. I haul on the line with my left hand as I accelerate into my first back cast. I apply this initial haul fairly slowly throughout the lift off, this allows me to commence a rhythm. This is a medium length of haul, three feet (short line, short haul). This lift-off haul differs from later aerial hauls, where I want my haul as near to rod-stop position as possible in the forward or rearward cast.

During this cycle my weight will have shifted to the rear on my right foot. I will then slip five or six feet of line into my back cast whilst drifting back. During drift, my left hand will be pulled back under tension toward the lower stripping guide as my rear loop completely unfurls. I have to be aware that by adding line in my back cast, I have to adjust my haul length accordingly on the forward cast. At this point I commence the forward cast, adjusting stroke length, timing, and haul length to the amount of line being carried.

By using this open stance and shifting my weight throughout the casting cycle I can analyze my rear loop formations to determine when



to deliver. What I look for in rear loop formation before delivery is a narrow, energized, parallel, pointed "dolphin-nosed" loop. As this loop unfurls completely, I come forward and deliver. On delivery I haul from as near to the stripping guide as possible, following through and releasing when my left hand is fully extended behind me. This coincides with an abrupt stop, again with all my weight transferred onto my left foot and body aligned with my target. I find that using this technique gives me control and stability during the distance cycle.

Accuracy? I tend to practice in all wind with a squared stance that places my right foot slightly forward in line with the center of the targets for my dominant (right hand) side. This is opposite when casting back-hand to targets off my left shoulder, if I open my stance up on my right side I find I deliver slightly to the right side of the target in neutral wind conditions. I make minor adjustments in stance and body position depending on wind issues, it is only through excessive practice that I can accomplish successive accurate lay downs.

On short to medium range practice, I hover the fly directly over the center of the target two to three times using an elbow forward style. On distance practice for accuracy I move my elbow further out to the right side and deliver approximately 10 degrees off shoulder. Occasionally when practicing on my left side to targets I will open my stance right foot placed about four feet behind my left and cast across body. I can achieve extremely good results from this position. Also, I find it beneficial to practice off both sides, casting to targets in the horizontal plane, again this is down to the windy area I live in. It is also good practice to cast with left hand to targets, and a lot of fun off both shoulders.

Practicing for Exceptional Performance - Part 2 *continued...*

5. The choice of equipment may be extremely important to practicing effectively. Do you have any thoughts you could share on choosing equipment that helps reveal as opposed to hide casting faults or weaknesses?

Steve Hollensed: In my opinion, choice of equipment can be important in a number of practice scenarios. One that I favor greatly involves the following; in my experience many casters fail to adjust the variables of the cast as the distance of the cast changes. That is, they are using a “one size fits all” approach to their casting.

Not only that, but often a caster will use choice of equipment to modify the cast. Fly anglers will use slow action rods for short to medium casts and fast action rods for longer cast. There is really nothing wrong with this practice (I use it myself), however it does deemphasize the need to modify the variables in a casting stroke.

And so in a guided practice environment I will often ask a student to form tight loops with a short line on a fast action rod. And I follow that up by asking for tight loops with a long line on a slow action rod.

This choice of equipment requires extreme changes by the caster in casting arc, stroke length, applied force, and pause time if tight loops are to be



achieved in both cases. By choosing equipment in this way and within the context of a practice activity, a caster may learn and gain a fuller understanding of the full range of changes needed by the caster to maintain tight loops with varying lengths of line/ rod load.

Al Buhr: Most rods and lines available today are more accepting of imperfect casting than a few decades ago. Often, what makes a good fishing rod or fly line choice may not be the best practice outfit. Unlike fishing, casting practice is enhanced when the rod and fly line are less tolerant of imperfect casting skill. An outfit that amplifies casting errors allows greater focus to improve skills.

My preferred rods for practice are mostly smooth moderate action, low modulus graphite or glass, often made in the 1970s and 80s. These rods are more sensitive of rod rotation timing, smoothness of power application and tracking. Low tech is great for a practice tool. In picking rod size; a 5-wt or 6-wt, around 9 foot (in two-hand; an 8-wt or 9-wt, of around 14 foot).

For single-hand fly line choice, I prefer a simple weight-forward line and avoid lines with compound tapers. Compound tapers are perfect choice for fishing. Again, as in choosing a rod, low tech simplicity is a good guide. When working two-handed, a double taper line is the best choice for making the most of practice.

Having an alternative outfit for practice keeps the modern ‘high-tech’ rod and line in top shape for fishing. If one counts casts, a couple hours of casting can be similar to a day’s fishing. Practice sessions can wear on a outfit. Casting on grass can be hard on a fly line; stretch and clean with frequency. As well, have a rod strung and easy to grab for a short session.

Practicing for Exceptional Performance - Part 2 *continued...*

Leslie Holmes: Occasionally when I feel the need to check if I am finely tuned regarding my casting practice I will string up a 5-wt rod with a 7-wt WF line. I find that this unbalanced outfit will highlight any issues which I may have like a fluorescent light bulb. I think this is a very good way of fine tuning, although it takes a little time to get settled into the outfit, it reveals any evident faults.

6. All of us should strive to be efficient, not waste or use too much energy, when we cast. Do you have any drills or thoughts on how we can become more efficient as casters?

Steve Hollensed: Efficiency in casting is, in my opinion, one of the major hallmarks of great casting. It is right up there with distance and accuracy. In my experience I have always been more efficient by using as narrow of casting arc as possible for a given rod load. I believe this produces the straightest tip path possible when a caster desires to use minimal applied force. Straighter tip paths produce tighter loops and tighter loops produce greater directional focusing of energy in the loop face toward the target. Efficiency, pure and simple.

In addition to minimal casting arcs, well-timed hauls can also add to a caster's efficiency in my opinion... especially for medium to long casts. Because the caster is supplying energy with the line hand, the rod hand can compensate with a reduction of energy input (all else being equal). Without this reduction in energy input from the rod hand, the rod hand is in all probability "working hard" to make the longer casts. With the rod hand working at the high end of the applied force spectrum, it just doesn't seem efficient to me.

So for me, it seems that I am much more efficient when I use minimal casting arcs and well-timed hauls.

Al Buhr: It has been my observation in developing a more proficient cast that the 'slowing of tempo' in an exercise will make distinct gains. This is a simple and effective, but often overlooked tweak to an exercise. 'Slowing of tempo' can be used with any exercise to enhance core fundamentals. When the tempo is slowed, the rod-track (straightness), power application (smoothness), and rod rotation (when during the stroke) all become more critical and distinct elements, thereby easier to define.



I often encourage students to imagine 'slowing of tempo' as fine sandpaper. Each decrease step of tempo is much like selecting a finer grade of sandpaper that polishes skill and technique.

Start at a comfortable pace in tempo. When the loops become perfect, slow the pace of tempo slightly (single or two-hand, the fundamentals are the same).

Practicing for Exceptional Performance - Part 2 *continued...*

Maintain tight, well-shaped loops. Make any needed adjustment by focusing on core elements of the exercise and cast. When good loops are consistent, slow the tempo again, repeating the sequence. Keep focus on the hands/arms/ body movements and how the rod responds, then watch the trailing loop shape.

As tempo slows, loops may sag. To resume good loops, increase focus to the core movements—the rod track, power application and so on. Keep in mind, slow does not mean weak or underpowered, clearly the opposite. Slow is determined, firm, methodical and strong at a defined pace.

'Slowing of tempo' incrementally will allow discovery in how slow a cast can be made while highlighting the core fundamentals of that exercise. To extend this thought, 'slowing of tempo' may be the most 'self-discovery' tool we have to sort out and explore the many subtle but important moves within a cast. This discovery is the pathway to having a clear understanding of casting fundamentals and their interconnecting relationships.

Leslie Holmes: I have the luxury of having an excellent efficient caster who lives nearby, he is my elder brother. I think that to cast efficiently we need to be analyzed and watched by people who understand technically what we are doing.

A very useful drill I use when alone is to choose a specific cast and continually cast changing my tempo and reducing every time until the cast collapses, then I just take it up a notch to give me the results I am happy with. I will use this exercise in all casts, I can actually feel the less I do the more I can achieve. Another way I find to help me cast

more efficiently is to analyze or see the specific cast I am about to do in my head, visualize it, before actually commencing the cast.



Chuck Easterling is a retired Chief Deputy Prosecutor from Jonesboro, Arkansas. Chuck became an MCI in 1999 and was elected to the Casting Board of Governors in 2003 and serves as chair of the Examiner Revue Committee.

Since retiring he spends the majority of his time at the family cabin on the Little Red River in Arkansas. When he is not forced to do yard work he is chasing trout and working on his two-handed casting.



Dayle Mazzarella, Carlsbad, CA, USA

Putting It All Together

(This is the final installation of Dayle Mazzarella's article on Teaching Large Groups.)

In Part I (Summer, 2014) we detailed preparation, materials, lay out, and general planning. In Part II (Fall, 2014) we explored specific teaching tactics and basic lesson plan design. In Part III we will use foundational information from Parts I and II to create an effective large group lesson.

Note: *In Part III considerable reference is made to information in Parts I and II. It is highly recommended that the reader review Parts I and II prior to reading Part III.*

Trying to follow a written description is always problematic. If there are any questions, please feel free to email or call me anytime, or attend one of my workshops.

It is important to develop a pattern which will be followed throughout the clinic. The lead instructor needs a whistle, horn, or bell. All participants have been assigned partners, casting stations, rod holders, and demo stations.

Five minutes prior to the start, blow the whistle and ask people to place rods in rod holders and report to their demo station. They should bring with them their clipboards, pens, and VIP sheets. Rod holders should be placed near the head of casting stations, but out of the way of casting lanes.

Begin exactly on time. Spend the first 10 minutes "Setting the Stage" for the clinic activities, making introductions and explaining the routines to be used.

To be included:

1. Purpose and goals of session, breaks, bathrooms, water, etc.
2. Use of PPL, partners, VIP, definition and example of Structured Practice, Structured Practice 2, and guided practice, and what we mean by "face of the clock" i.e. 1pm, 3pm, 10am, etc.
3. Format and organization. "Here at the demonstration station we will explain, demonstrate, and work through structured practice using paint brushes and noodles. You will then report to your stations where one person at a time will take their rod out of the rod holder and will begin the assigned drills. The second person observes and uses the noodle when appropriate to direct casting strokes, etc." Demonstrate.

"Always bring your set of noodles, VIP, clipboard, and pen back to your casting station. You can reference the VIP if you are having trouble and I'm working with someone else. I'll blow the whistle after 4 minutes and it will be time to switch partners. After the second whistle, please put your rods away, grab your noodles and report to your demo station."

"Now we'll begin the first drill."

Note: *My typical group lesson for beginning to intermediate casters takes about 2 hours. (If you are trying this for the first time, give yourself 2 1/2 to 3 hours with 2 10-minute breaks.)*

Very few people can cast that long anyway so using pairs allows a person to rest, reflect and take notes. (See part 2 for other advantages.)



Teaching Fly Casting to Large Groups Part 3 *continued...*

I use the Paint Brush and Noodle Drill as the first drill, then the Grass Drill. (See Appendix.) PULD is my third drill. The Paint Brush Drill teaches acceleration. The Grass Drill or Line Drill teaches straight line rod tip path by requiring the student to land their fly line parallel to the rope. Now we add a third drill (PULD) that teaches a third concept - pause. Note the sequential development of skills. One skill, one principal at a time. Learn 1, then go to 2, then review 1 and 2, then go to 3. Using the format below assumes we have completed the Paint Brush/noodle and Grass Drills.

Because almost everyone does the Pickup and Lay Down Drill we'll use it to demonstrate in detail how one incorporates PPL, partners, structured practice and guided practice. This same basic structure can be used for all drills.

"The third drill is the Pickup and Lay Down. You've already learned proper application of force and acceleration by using the paintbrush and smoothly accelerating to a hard stop. And you've learned about straight line rod tip path when doing the grass drill.

Now we are going to use a drill that will teach you another important principle. When you begin casting back and forth, called false casting, you need to pause so the line straightens out at the end of each casting stroke. This takes out the slack and allows the rod to bend when we begin moving it in the opposite direction." Demonstrate False Casting. "In this drill we are going to make only one stroke to the back and one to the front. So all we need to worry about is the one pause in the back." Demonstrate PULD. "We need to smoothly accelerate, create a straight line rod tip path, pause, and then come forward and lay down the line." Demonstrate again.

Structured Practice 1:

"Everyone pick up your noodle and follow along with me." Instructor has noodle and students watch and then mimic.

"Step 1, point your noodle at the ground, wrist straight and locked." Check to see everyone is doing it.

"Step 2, without bending the wrist, slowly lift and slowly accelerate your noodle to about 10am." Check to see everyone is doing it. (If not, use PPL.) Repeat steps 1 and 2 five times.

"Step 3, now continue smoothly accelerating, just like you did with the paint brush, and stop hard a about 1pm. (Remember to keep the wrist locked until towards the end of the backward stroke. Begin rotating the wrist as you approach 12 o'clock.) Your thumb should be almost straight up, hand a little behind your ear and wrist slightly cocked." Check, use PPL.

"Repeat that five times." Circulate, use PPL.

"Step 4, Again copying the paintbrush drill, start with the hand back, wrist slightly bent.

Now accelerate forward and stop abruptly at 10:30. Again, keep the wrist locked until towards the end of the stroke. Rotate the wrist as you move past 12 o'clock."

Check.

"Next, let's repeat steps 1 - 3, and pause, then do step 4."

Check.

"Repeat that sequence five times." Use PPL.

"Step 5, repeat steps 1-4, now barely pause after the stop in Step 4 and bring your noodle down to the original position in Step 1. Repeat the process". Circulate, use PPL.

Structured Practice 2

"Partner A, teach Partner B all five steps, first one step at a time and then holistically. Then reverse rolls. You have 30 seconds each.

"Circulate, use PPL.

Teaching Fly Casting to Large Groups Part 3 *continued...*

Guided Practice

"When I say 'Go', take one set of noodles and your VIP material to your casting area. Partner A take your rod out of your rod holder and have Partner B pull 35' of line out to the 35' cone. Partner A repeat the drill with your rod and Partner B watch. If the rod goes too far back, take your noodle and stop it at 1pm. Do the same on the front."

Demonstrate. "Okay, go!" Wait 4 minutes; blow the whistle. "Partner B get your rod, Partner A put yours away and reverse rolls. You have 4 minutes." Circulate using PPL.

After 4 minutes, blow the whistle. "Put away your rods, grab your noodles and report to the demonstration area."

We have now completed a segment of the clinic. Repeat this procedure with the other drills.

Important Notes

Have the roll cast tools already at the stations and in the ground at 20' or so.

I do the drills in this order, with a VIP for each. (See sample agenda.)

1. Paint Brush and Noodle Drill
2. Ground or line drill
3. Pick Up and Lay Down Drill
4. False Cast Drill
5. Feeding Line Drill
6. Roll Cast Drill
7. Roll Cast to Pick Up to False Casts to Feed and Shoot Drill

Notice the "Challenges" at the end of each VIP. Using these, more advanced casters can work on more advanced tasks and it is possible to teach a very diversified group.

At the conclusion, I give everyone the VIP sheets. Don't forget to get the clipboards back! I have participants fill out evaluation forms.



Dayle Mazzarella IFFF MCI is an award-winning educator whose professional experiences include teaching, coaching, and training teachers in the areas of curriculum development and instructional methodology.



Dayle, currently is semi retired, has fly fished for 30 years. He has guided fly fishing trips in Wyoming for 20 years, is an IFFF Master Casting Instructor, and works part time as a school district consultant training teachers and developing curriculum. His email is: emailmazz@yahoo.com.



• Click to download the Casting Clinic Agenda.

New Training Aid

Instructors' SLP Training Tool

**Keith Richard - Breaux Bridge, LA, USA and
Jeff Ferguson - Lake Charles, LA, USA**

Much has been written about the different ways students learn. It is generally agreed that visual, auditory and kinesthetic aids all should come into play at some point in the learning process. As fly casting instructors we should be on the lookout for new and creative ways to help our students understand the concepts of fly casting. Recently one of these came to my attention. Its designer, Jeff Ferguson, CCI of Lake Charles, LA, USA, has created a visual aid to help casting students better understand the principles or essentials we discuss in our teaching.

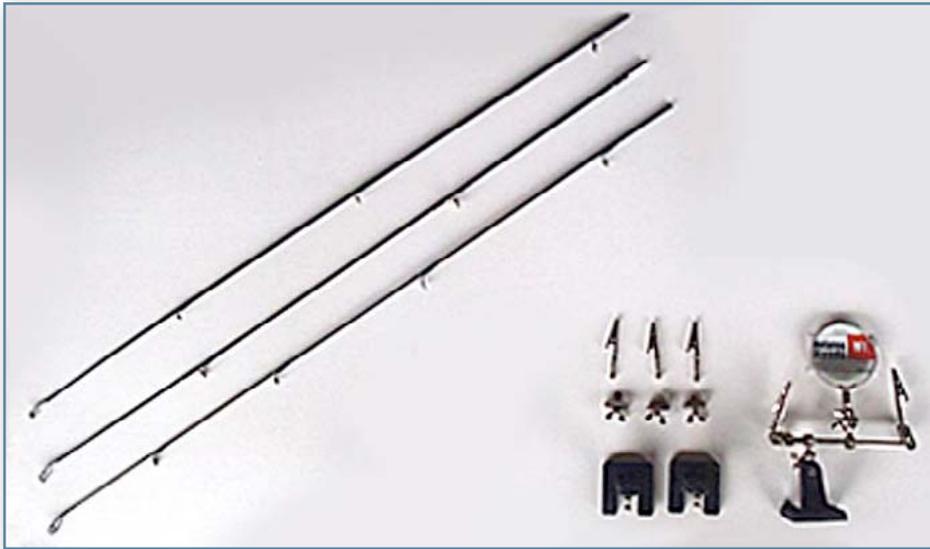
The concept of straight line path of the rod tip (SLP) can be confusing for a newcomer to the sport. As you look at the image below (insert image SLP Tool 1), imagine the beginning of the cast represented by the rod tip in the position on the far right, and the end of the cast represented by the rod tip to the far left, then the string which connects the two tips drawn tight becomes the straight-line path. Now, taking the center rod tip and positioning it where the cast begins (on the far right) you can move the rod tip through its arc and stroke, flexing the tip so that it follows the straight-line path all the way to the end of the cast. In a similar fashion we can demonstrate a domed tip path resulting in open loops, as well as a bowl tip path resulting in tailing loops.

The rod tip in the center is representative of the student's rod and can be used to show loop shapes, rod bend, and rod tip paths. The rod



tips on either end represent the rod stop positions of the cast. By adjusting the wing nuts at the base of the rods and tilting their position, you are able to adjust them to either open up or decrease the casting arc of the cast. Likewise, by moving the rods closer together or spreading them apart, you are able to illustrate adjustments to the casting stroke. By tilting the base (sliding bar) of the device you are able to illustrate changes in trajectory and/or

Instructors' SLP Training Tool *continued...*



casting in various planes. Adjusting the line on the center rod tip, on the back and forward cast, one can discuss and illustrate the “180 degree” rule. The straight string strong across the model illustrates the straight line path of the rod tip. By comparing the projected rod tip path to the string, one can demonstrate the causes and corrections for open, narrow or tailing loops.

The model is fairly easy to build with a grinder, three salvaged rod tips, two strips of line from discarded fly line, 3 clips, 3 wing nuts, 3 wing nut bases, 1 sliding bar, and Oh! don't forget the duct tape. The device's total length is about 3ft. With a total weight of a pound, you can understand that it is easily portable. At a cost of approx. \$ 20 it is relatively inexpensive to construct.

Find the “Helping Hands,” the bases, wing nuts and clips used to hold the rod tips at Harbor Freight tool store, or online. The bases are trimmed with a grinder to fit and slide along the slide bar. The slide bar within which the bases of the rod tips ultimately fit into and slide along is called a “wood clamp” and can, also, be acquired from Harbor Freight.

While class room settings and ceiling fans aren't always optimum for full-length rods, this device is portable, easy to set-up in a minimum amount of time and very effective in demonstrating concepts not so easily understood by words alone. For further instructions on building and /or utilizing the model, you can contact Jeff or myself.

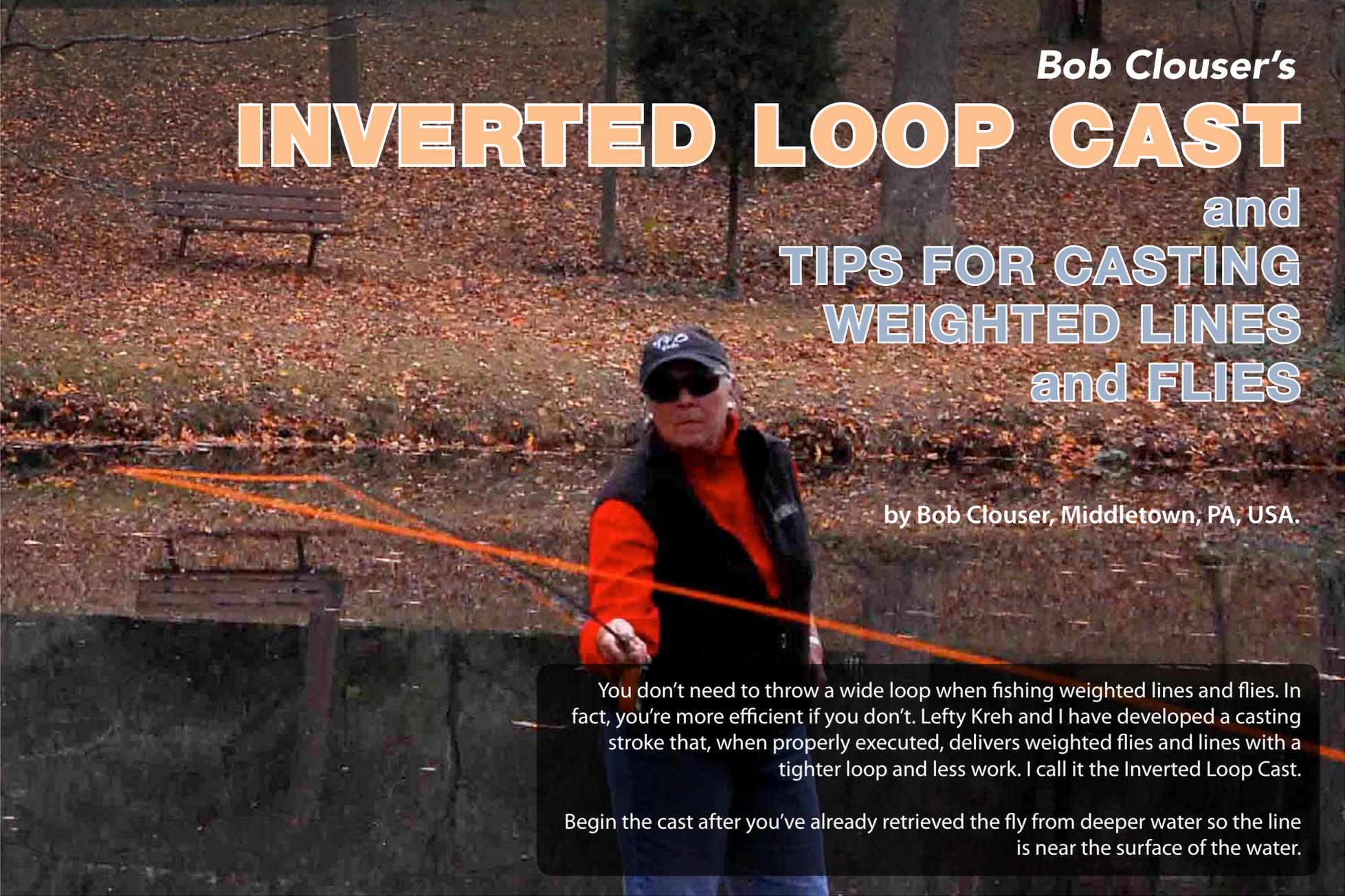
Happy Teaching.

Keith Richard is a MCI residing in Breaux Bridge, LA. and owner of the Camp Fly Fishing School. Keith has been president of Acadiana Fly Rodders and Vice President of the Gulf Coast Council. He enjoys all aspects of fly fishing and travels throughout the US in search of cold water trout and salt water species.

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Jeff Ferguson is a CCI who resides is Lake Charles, LA. He loves teaching fly casting and chasing schools of redfish and speckled trout around the Big Lake area in Louisiana. He is an instructor at the Camp Fly Fishing School in Breaux Bridge, LA.

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Bob Clouser's
INVERTED LOOP CAST
and
**TIPS FOR CASTING
WEIGHTED LINES
and FLIES**

by Bob Clouser, Middletown, PA, USA.

You don't need to throw a wide loop when fishing weighted lines and flies. In fact, you're more efficient if you don't. Lefty Kreh and I have developed a casting stroke that, when properly executed, delivers weighted flies and lines with a tighter loop and less work. I call it the Inverted Loop Cast.

Begin the cast after you've already retrieved the fly from deeper water so the line is near the surface of the water.

Bob Clouser's Inverted Loop Cast *continued...*



Step 1

Without breaking your wrist, begin the backcast by rotating your hips and shoulders in the direction of the backcast with the rod traveling to reach a 45° angle by the end of the backcast. The line travels below the rod tip to create an inverted loop. After your hand passes your left shoulder, speed up and stop the rod to send the weighted line and fly rearward. The inverted loop will unroll and send the fly in an upward trajectory at the end of the back cast (instead of the downward direction with a standard cast).



Step 2

Without pausing, elevate the angle of the rod from 45 degrees to approximately 60-75° (closer to upright/vertical) without lifting your hand or elbow. This keeps constant tension on the line and avoids shocking the line when you begin the forward cast.

Bob Clouser's Inverted Loop Cast *continued...*



Step 3

As the casting hand changes the rod angle to ninety degrees, simultaneously begin rotating your body for the forward cast. Once the casting hand and shoulder passes the plane of the opposing shoulder, accelerate and stop the tip of the rod in the direction of the target to complete the cast.

Remember to apply ***constant tension*** on the rod through the entire cast. It is almost like pulling the weighted line and fly thru the entire back and forward casting motion. Don't pause between the back and forward cast, merely change the plane of the rod from forty-five degrees to ninety degrees as the body begins forward rotation. For better accuracy, pull the line directly away from the target on the backcast before speeding up and stopping the rod.

Below are a list of tips and ideas I've collected over the years concerning casting weighted flies and sinking lines. I think them useful. If you have questions, email me – bcmimno@aol.com

Tips for Casting Weighted Lines and Flies

- Learning how to fish with weighted flies and lines will improve the catch rate for sure.
- Keep ***constant tension*** on the fly rod through the entire casting stroke. You will be pulling the weighted line or fly through the entire back and forward casting strokes.
- Use your body. Bring your casting-hand shoulder back with the motion of the back cast. When making the front cast, bring the casting shoulder forward until it passes the non-casting hand shoulder. Then apply the forward speed-up-and-stop by pushing the palm of the hand forward. This is kind of like throwing a dart, baseball or hitting a golf ball, use no up and down wrist movement.
- Very important, never use the wrist or arm where it moves in an up and downward motion.

Bob Clouser's Inverted Loop Cast *continued...*



- Never leave the backcast stop before you attempt the front cast.
- Separate the front - and backcasts, (Make one at a time)
- When making a cast always keep the line on the (casting) side of the rod and your body. Never pull the rod across your body when making either a front or back cast.
- When casting make sure the casting hand moves in a straight line forward. Not in a downward motion.
- Learn to cast an ***inverted loop (upside down loop)*** on the back cast, the inverted loop allows the weighted line and fly to travel upward instead of downward after the back cast is made.
- Always pull or move the line in the direction you want it to go before applying the speed-up-and-stop and completing the cast.

- Always pull the weighted line and fly to the surface before attempting to make the back cast.
- For greater efficiency never make more than two false casts while casting weighted lines or flies
- For better accuracy always make the backcast directly away (180° opposite) from the target, the natural return of the fly rod to straight will send the line to the target.
- Use a roll cast pick-up to lift the line from the water, make the roll-cast and as soon as the line travels forward and touches the surface of the water after the roll cast is applied the back cast should be made.
- For greater distances, allow line to slip backward during the back cast, shoot line on the Backcast.
- Never pick up more line than needed to make a backcast, for many situations 25 to 35 feet is a good starting point. If less than this length is applied, use a water-haul to put more tension on your fly rod. The angler makes a forward cast and shoots a few feet of line. As soon as the line hits the water's surface, the angler makes a Backcast to load the rod, then a front cast to deliver the fly.



Bob Clouser is the creator of the Clouser Deep Minnow, arguably the best known fly in the world. He teaches fly casting and fly tying, and has for decades. He runs a mail order fly tying and fly tackle business near the Susquehanna River in Middletown, PA, USA. He is an advisor for TFO Fly Rods, Cortland lines, and Chota outdoor wear. Contact him at bcmminno@aol.com or online at www.clouserflyfishing.com

THE SCALLOP CAST

A Novel Approach To The Underpowered Curve Cast

Dino Frangos - Mobile, Alabama, USA

Underpowered curve casts provide an option for drag free drifts with a successful fly presentation. Compared with an overpowered curve cast, where a right-handed caster curves the fly line to the left, an underpowered or negative curve cast directs the fly line to the right. The cast is very useful when casting upstream and directing the line over a feeding lane on the right, or when casting cross-stream to achieve a drag free drift from the left to the right. The underpowered curve relies on loop control. Specifically, one directs the fly line and fly forward while preserving the loop, or as Swisher and Richards say, 'the candy cane maintains its shape.' The loop remains intact as the line hits the water.

The so-called *underpowered cast* typically is described as a horizontal de-energized cast. One common method is to make a decelerating cast with a slow moving loop that prevents the line from unrolling. Others suggest slipping line to kill the cast. I would like to offer an alternative method I call the 'Scallop Cast.'

The Scallop Cast

Begin casting with your standard forward and backward stroke. My casting style is primarily slightly off-shoulder (fig. 1). After the back cast stop and appropriate pause, the forward cast is made by creating a scalloped or shallow U-shaped path followed by rod butt/hand translation. The hand starts high, proceeds lower in mid-stroke (fig. 2), and finishes high (fig. 3). Initially the rod is positioned for the start of a standard forward cast and finishes across and in front of the caster. This curved rod tip path results in a wide curve line layout.



Figure 1.

The forward cast starts at a normal speed and then decelerates as it nears completion. The hand and forearm supinate or rotate so the palm of the hand finishes the stroke facing upward. The stroke relies on a less definitive stop.

Moving the rod on this path will direct the fly and end of the fly line downward while directing that portion of the line closest to the rod upward. This allows the fly line to fall to the water before the loop opens. The supination of the wrist and finishing the cast with the hand directly in front of the caster prevents a forceful unloading of the rod and provides for a wide open loop.

The Scallop Cast *continued...*

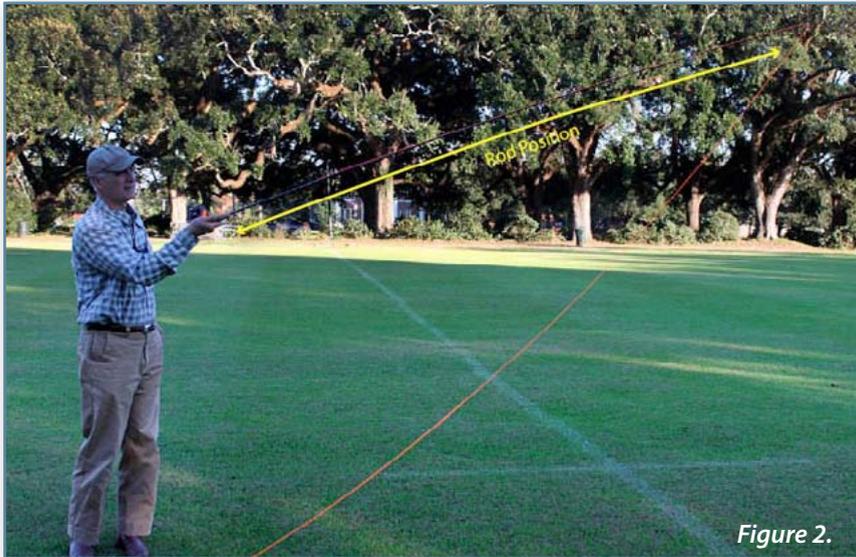


Figure 2.

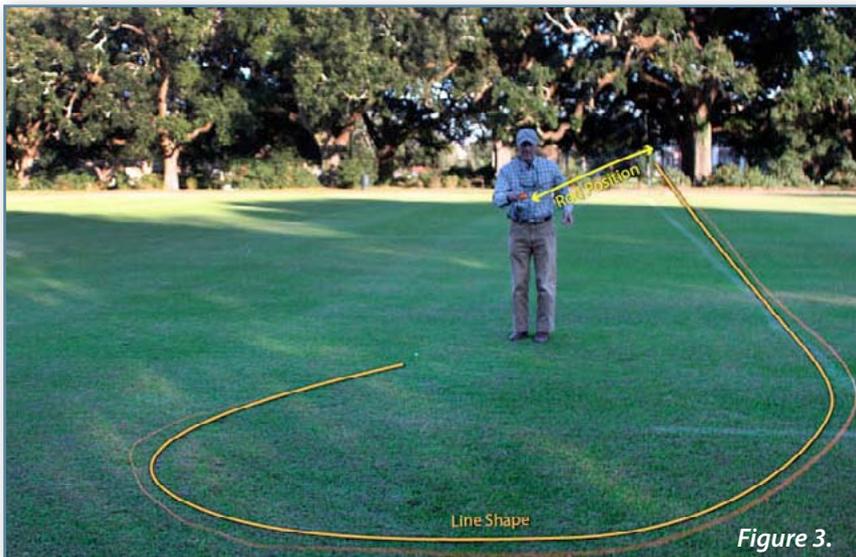


Figure 3.

Once the underpowered curve is formed, it can be guided to the appropriate distance by moving the rod forward.

When the cast is performed correctly, a wide loop is made with the fly and distal fly line positioned at almost a right angle from the proximal line.

Drawbacks to a standard underpowered cast include lack of accuracy, and poor shape or placement when dealing with the wind. This is secondary to the nature of the cast being underpowered and poorly energized. If too little power is applied the cast collapses, too much and the line straightens.

Guiding the rod tip path initially downward and then upward allows the casting energy to be redirected and dissipated away from a straight line path. This cast allows for initial **normal rod acceleration followed by deceleration**, yet maintaining and delivering an intact wide loop.

The next time you are fishing up-stream or cross stream on your favorite water and suspect fish off to the side, consider the Scallop Cast. This cast provides a soft fly delivery and a long drag-free drift down the fish's feeding lane.



Dino N. Frangos is an MCI, a Wyoming native and a practicing urologist who lives in Mobile, Alabama, USA.



The Other Side of The Clipboard: ***LESSONS FROM AN EVOLVING CICP EXAMINER***

by Jonathan Walter - Arvada, Colorado, USA

Ed. Note: Attaining one's MCI certification is not a destination, it's a waymark on a path that includes continuing intellectual, professional and personal development. Some MCIs take their professional development a step further and volunteer their time and talents as Casting Program examiners. Here, learning ramps up very quickly. Below, new examiner Jonathan Walter takes us on his journey of learning as a new CICP examiner.

As a Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) examiner, a Master Certified Casting Instructor is tasked with deciding the fate of a fellow traveler on the journey toward certification. For me, this created a new level of anxiety as I tried to balance being cordial but firm, fair, consistent, clear, concise, and having a bit of bedside manner, if bad news was to be delivered. In addition, I found there was a difference in expectations and standards for CI vs. MCI. An examiner is expected to do all this while giving the candidate every opportunity to pass within the confines of the exam protocol and performance standards.

Thank goodness there is an Examiner Development Pathway (EDP) to help one develop these skills!

However, like many other things in life, there is no substitute for experience.

My first examiner experience was testing a candidate for his Certified Instructor (CI) in 2013. The lead examiner knew I had not done an exam before so he took time to prepare me. I learned four things very quickly: First, don't wear sunglasses when speaking to the candidate--make eye contact. I've gotten better with this, but it is easy to forget. Second, include other examiners in the process. For example, after some of the tasks were done, I was asked if I had any questions or wanted to see anything else. This was a great way to get and keep a new examiner involved. Third, keep in mind that standards and expectations for a CI are different than for an MCI. My lead examiner made a special point of this with me since I had only recently passed my MCI test. It would have been easy to start applying MCI standards during the exam. Fourth, keep records. Unfortunately, situations can become contentious and records as detailed as possible are important.

My second exam taught me that keeping frustration in check is important. It started with the CI candidate telling the lead examiner that he had already scheduled his next exam. He clearly did not expect to pass and he did not really understand some of the tasks. And my second exam was indoors, in the winter. It was extremely hard for me to see the line and loops. In addition, I was frustrated with my own preparation, which was too "loose." I hadn't spent enough time detailing my expectations for each task. In this aspect, the candidate and I had much in common.

Lessons from An Evolving CICP Examiner *continued...*

Next, I was third examiner for an MCI exam. Here I had the opportunity to test with more than one person with lots of experience. This time I was better prepared and knew what I wanted to see and hear from the candidate. Each of us examiners had slightly different examination styles, and it was of great value to see this. From a practical standpoint both we and the candidate had to deal with and allow for wind. It was good to see what “allow” meant to more experienced examiners! Also, we all agreed that the candidate did not make the best choice with regard to positioning himself for the test, relative to the wind. Although not part of the letter of the test, we agreed that an MCI should be able to make a good choice in this regard.

The night before my fourth exam I was told that I would be the lead examiner. My first response was trepidation, then I thought, “I can do this.” What better time to start than with a supportive and more experienced instructor who remembers what it is like to start out (the supervised lead)? Off I went back to the hotel to prepare my “preamble” talk with the candidate and review a clear set of expectations of a CI candidate.

I like to think it went pretty well, but I also started to see that the examination process is, like casting and fishing, a process of continual learning. First, the candidate spontaneously told us of a health issue and how to remedy it if needed. . .perhaps not a bad idea for the examiner to “open the door” to such a disclosure in the future. Second, I got a taste of prompting versus coaching. Once I told the candidate that we wanted to see tighter back loops, but then I stepped over the line from prompting to coaching with a different issue. Tricky business this! Third, as lead examiner, offer direction to the others. I walked to

the far end of the tape to watch the candidate repeat Task 1 to check for a tracking problem. My co-examiner asked, “What do you want me to do?” OOPS!--should have thought of that. Fourth, have a quiver of “stock” questions to ask after some of the tasks. I found some of my questions were not concise and ready to go. Moments lost here and there add up. Fifth, when summarizing the exam for the candidate, I lapsed into teaching mode which got too detailed for the situation. Thankfully my supervisor-co-examiner pulled me back!

In summary, here are my thoughts based on my evolving learning experience:

1. ***When addressing the candidate, especially initially, remove your sunglasses so you can make eye contact.***
2. ***Be cordial, professional but firm in demeanor.*** You are in charge of the exam and are also ambassadors of the CICP and IFFF. For some candidates you will be the first person they will meet in this capacity.
3. ***Have clear expectations in mind about standards for each task and look and listen for these.*** Write them down if need be. This includes differences in expectations between CI and MCI exams. As much as possible stick to the letter of the test. These expectations will get more consistent between examiners over time, but even then it will pay to review the details.
4. ***Don’t “wing it.” Prepare an introduction to the exam: Have it written or printed.*** Even if you are not the lead, this is a good exercise to go through for when you are.

Lessons from An Evolving CICP Examiner *continued...*

Mine now includes (but is not limited to) introductions, how the exam proceeds, asking for breaks, any health issues to be aware of, likelihood of side examiner conversations, repeating tasks and follow up questions regarding tasks. I will likely continue asking candidates if they want to know before the exam is over if they are not going to pass. The candidate then has the option of finishing the exam as a learning experience. Finally, I will tell them that I want them to leave the exam feeling that they have been treated fairly, have a clear idea of why they passed or failed, and are enthusiastic to learn more.

5. **Prepare, lead and include fellow examiners.** Are there critical things you wish to direct them to look for or do during given tasks? This is best done before the exam I think, or in a side conversation. I suspect this will take less and less time as we gain "inter-observer" consistency through the EDP. If you are not the lead, ask if there are specific things you should do or look for, and say something if you see issues that others may not have.
6. **Understand the difference between prompting and coaching.** If I am uncertain in the future how to express something without stepping over the line, I will discuss it with the other examiner(s) first.
7. **Frustration happens.** Both examiners and candidates are subject to this. Try to recognize it and take a break perhaps. Sometimes recognizing our own frustration is the most difficult.
8. **Keep records of the exam.** There should be documentation on the exam form as to why a task was passed or failed. Keep these records in a safe place.

9. **Be prepared to deliver both good and bad news and concisely say why.** This can include offering help to the candidate in the future, but by this time everyone is fatigued, so don't start a lecture/demonstration! Those that pass should know the things they need to improve.
10. **If inclined, offer a follow up written summary of the exam to the candidate and send it to them at a later date.**

That's it, except to say there will be more to learn. Maybe I'll write about the next ten things next year!



Jonathan Walter is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and moved to Colorado in 1988 to practice Internal Medicine. He started fly fishing then and has never looked back. He teaches fly Fishing, fly casting, and fly tying through local shops and the Colorado Mountain Club.

*He received his MCI in September 2013.
Contact him at j_walter@msn.com*

Привет! Greetings!

Report from Pskov City, Russia

Thomas Berggren - Malmköping, Sweden

It all started with an email request from Carl Zarelli. He needed a Level III casting examiner to travel to the testing event in Pskov City, Russia in early October. But there was a caveat: I needed to find flights, accommodations, and visa at a cost that was acceptable to the IFFF budget.

I agreed and the journey began. This appeared to be a big 'test' for me as well, since I live in Sweden.

First trial: How to get a visa to Russia on short notice? I received so many different answers and so much info about what was needed for the visa application that I really didn't know how to do it. It seems simple if you read the information on Russian Embassy webpage, but for me it was not. I had to spend many days emailing, calling Russia and the Russian Embassy to get it right, and there were different answers all the time. But finally it was there. Phu!

Report from Pskov City, Russia *continued...*



For the sake of budget, event organizer Oleg Zheltoviskiy (MCI) arranged for a driver to pick me up at St. Petersburg Airport on October 2. Well done! The driver was there waving with a sign "IFFF Thomas Berggren". The driver couldn't speak English and I speak no Russian, so we communicated using sign language. After a 10-minute drive he pointed to a CD and I said yes and showed the sign for "you're welcome" with my hands. He loaded the player with this CD and it appears to be a Russian audiobook, it was not music. I'm not sure what title it was, but to me it was Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment since the drive from St Petersburg to Pskov was 3.5 hours. That was my second test.

I arrived to Pskov later that evening, and from here there were no more tests for me. Everything was well organized. The organizers and all the volunteers who worked hard for this event were there to

meet me. Oleg Zheltoviskiy (MCI, examiner level I & head organizer), Aleksey Teryaev (MCI, THCI, examiner level I) and others.

One man in particular deserves to be mentioned: Maksim Teterin. Maksim was Oleg's assistant for organizing the event. Honestly, Maksim was everywhere arranging things. He was the last one to leave the casting field, because he had to pack down all the banners, tents and stuff. But the funny thing was he was the first one setting up all the gear on the next spot and so on. In between he was the one to make sure there was coffee in the pot and food if someone was hungry.

Amazing guy who worked harder than everyone and did a superb job. On top of that also he stepped up to take the CI test. Unfortunately he didn't reach all the way, but who can blame him.

Report from Pskov City, Russia *continued...*



His mind was focus on keeping that coffee pot hot for all the others. Maksim said he will come back for a new test and next time he's going to be focused on the test and be well prepared. That's good because people like him are most welcome.

On October 2, my first night in Russia, I held an Examiner Workshop for Oleg and Aleksey. I have to say they had done their homework very well. Later on we planned and rearranged the test schedule. It was a long night followed by an early awakening the next day for the opening of the event.

The opening ceremony was held in a conference room at the hotel. I was explaining the schedule, procedure and about the IFFF organization. Next came a written test for all candidates, and after that it was workshops. We had one MCI candidate who held a workshop on Simplicity. Oleg gave The Five Essentials, Aleksey discussed Bruce Richard's Six-Step Method, and I talked about the personal development journey an instructor's decision to take the

MCI test to next step on their personal development, the EDP (Examiner Development Pathway). First one out for the performance tests on Oct. 3 was an MCI candidate and next one was a CI. Unfortunately neither candidate passed. The following days we tested five CI candidates -- three passed, one failed and one cancelled. We also had two THCI candidates; unfortunately, neither succeeded in gaining their certification.

In every case, the testing was made a bit more difficult because most questions and comments needed to run through an interpreter, due to the language barrier. Everyone, the candidates, examiner and interpreter, was in a good mood even though the tests took longer than normal. I'm impressed how everyone who failed reacted when they got the test result. They were all humble and said they will come back and nail it next time. I'm also impressed by my examiner colleagues' performance. Oleg and Alex did a really good job as examiners as well as organizers.

Thank you all for letting me have this experience.

Congratulations to our new CIs: Andrey Afanasiev, Illya Adamenko, and Sergey Gatsenko.



Thomas Berggren is an MCI, THCI, and Level III examiner who owns and operates Lilla Malma Fishery just outside Malmköping, Sweden, 30 minutes from Stockholm-Skavsta (NYO) Airport in.

He has 30 years experience as guide and instructor in both single and two-handed fly fishing.

NEW REGISTERED INSTRUCTORS AND TEST EVENTS

Certified between September 1, 2014 to November 30th 2014 - listed according to test date.

First Name	Last Name	City	Region	Country	Certification	Test Date
Alex	Adams	High Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	United Kingdom	CI	19/09/2014
Chris	Owens	Manchester	Lancashire	United Kingdom	CI	19/09/2014
Tapani	Mikola	Tampere	LÄnsi-Suomen lääni	Finland	CI	19/09/2014
Craig	Robertson	Grantown On Spey	Moray	United Kingdom	CI	20/09/2014
Mathias	Lasu	Bromma	Stockholms [SE-01]	Sweden	CI	20/09/2014
Justin	Duggan	Avalon	New South Wales	Australia	CI	21/09/2014
Carsten	Rau	Hamburg	Hamburg	Germany	CI	24/09/2014
Andrey	Afanasyev	Krasnyi Kholm	Tverskaya oblast'	Russian Federation	CI	4/10/2014
Illya	Adamenko	Moscow	Moskva	Russian Federation	CI	4/10/2014
Sergey	Gatsenko	Khabarovsk	Khabarovskiy kray	Russian Federation	CI	4/10/2014
Exequiel	Bustos	Capital	Mendoza	Argentina	CI	9/10/2014
Emmanuel	Augustaci	Mendoza	Mendoza	Argentina	CI	10/10/2014
Pablo Rodrigo	Perez	Mendoza	Mendoza	Argentina	CI	10/10/2014
Kim Hee	June	Seoul	Seoul Teugbyeolsi	South Korea	CI	24/10/2014
Brian	DeLoach	Cleveland	Tennessee	United States	CI	1/11/2014
Guy	Deloach	Cleveland	Tennessee	United States	CI	1/11/2014
Bob	Wyatt	Dunedin	Otago	New Zealand	CI	7/11/2014
Derek	Grzelewski	Wanaka	Otago	New Zealand	CI	7/11/2014
Gary	Turri	San Ramon	California	United States	CI	9/11/2014
Ian	Ryall	Lawson	New South Wales	Australia	CI	14/11/2014
Darren	Asquith	Benalla	Victoria	Australia	CI	15/11/2014
Leigh	Dowell	Euroa	Victoria	Australia	CI	15/11/2014
Mark	Swann	Adelaide	South Australia	Australia	CI	15/11/2014
Phillip	Matthews	Kalorama	Victoria	Australia	CI	15/11/2014
Stuart	Fagan	Tuross Head	New South Wales	Australia	CI	15/11/2014
Peter	Glasson	Comboyne	New South Wales	Australia	CI	16/11/2014
Roger	Elton	Brisbane	Queensland	Australia	CI	16/11/2014

NEW REGISTERED INSTRUCTORS AND TEST EVENTS

Certified between September 1, 2014 to November 30th 2014 - listed according to test date.

First Name	Last Name	City	Region	Country	Certification	Test Date
Pat	O'Toole	Co. Meath	Ireland	Ireland	MCI	18/09/2014
James	Murray	Ayr	South Ayrshire	United Kingdom	THCI	18/09/2014
Tomas	Lundqvist	Valbo	Gavleborgs lan [SE-21]	Sweden	THCI	18/09/2014
John	Boon	Heswall	Wirral	United Kingdom	THCI	19/09/2014
Phil	Ratcliffe	Chester	Cheshire	United Kingdom	THCI	19/09/2014
René	Gerken	Odense C	Fyn	Denmark	THCI	19/09/2014
Chris	Hague	Barnsley	South Yorkshire	United Kingdom	THCI	20/09/2014
Gianfranco	Lenzi	Fiondi di Bassignana	Alessandria	Italy	THCI	20/09/2014
Stefano	Monchieri	Azzano Mella	Brescia	Italy	THCI	20/09/2014
Alain	Laprade	St Laurent	Quebec	Canada	THCI	9/10/2014
John	Bilotta	Washington	District of Columbia	United States	THCI	9/10/2014
Kim Hee	June	Seoul	Seoul Teugbyeolsi	South Korea	THCI	22/10/2014
Chul Oh	Kim	Seoul	Seoul Teugbyeolsi	South Korea	THCI	23/10/2014
Brian	Henderson	Elizabeth Beach	New South Wales	Australia	THCI	12/11/2014

2014 - 2015 Test Events

TEST DATE	VENUE	TEST No	CERTIFICATIONS	AVAILABILITY
January 15-18, 2015	ISE Denver, CO, USA	Test #1501	6 CI, 2 MCI	6 CI, 2 MCI
January 23-24, 2015	Somerset, NJ, USA	Test #1502	CI, 2 MCI	CI CLOSED , 2 MCI
April 11-12, 2015	Kolding, Denmark	Test #0315	4 CI, 3 MCI, THCI upon request	4 CI, 3 MCI, THCI
April 16-17, 2015	EFW Furstenfeldbruck, Germany	Test #0415	8 CI, 6 MC, THCI upon request	8 CI, 6 MC, THCI
May 1, 2015	Ellensburg, WA, USA	Test #1505	3 CI, 4 MCI, 1 THCI	3 CI, 4 MCI, 1 THCI
May 15-17, 2015	Gargazon, Italy	Test #0115	6 CI, 4 MCI, 3 THCI	6 CI, 4 MCI, 3 THCI
June 4-7, 2015	Pilichowice, Poland	Test #0215	12CI, 8 MCI, 4 THCI	12CI, 8 MCI, 4 THCI

All information above are correct at the time of publication. For the latest up to date information, please visit:
<http://fedflyfishers.org/Casting/CalendarofEventsTestingDates.aspx>

The Editorial Team



Eric Cook is an MCI and a member of the CBOG. He is a degreed Mechanical Engineer from Atlanta GA, USA. Eric fishes for carp. Cook is the editorial director of *The Loop*.



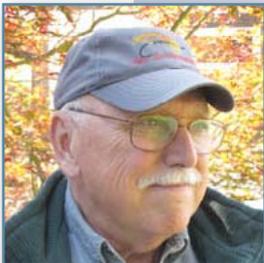
David Lambert is an editor of print and digital media. He also writes for outdoor-oriented publications. He is an MCI who lives in North Florida, USA. He was youth chair for the FFF-SEC for 12 years and is an IFFF - Florida council director. Lambert is managing editor of *The Loop*.



John Bilotta is an MCI who lives in Washington DC. He is a former journalist. Bilotta is associate editor of *The Loop*.



Carl McNeil is an MCI living in New Zealand, he teaches, makes films, designs gear and generally tries to have a good time - and not get caught. McNeil is media editor of *The Loop*.



Bruce Morrison is a retired professor of anthropology who has worked in South and Southeast Asia, Canada and the Caribbean. He is a book author and editor. He is the chair of the Fly Fishing Education Committee of the Mid-Island Castaways Fly Fishing Club in Vancouver Island, BC. Morrison is associate editor of *The Loop*.



Bintoro Tedjosiswoyo was born in Java, Indonesia but has lived in Melbourne, Australia since 1978. Originally in electronic engineering, Bintoro later became a commercial graphic designer and illustrator. He is a certified CI & THCI. Bintoro is *The Loop's* graphic design editor and illustrator.

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