

The Loop

*The Federation of Fly Fishers Journal for Certified Casting Instructors
Winter 2004*

DEVELOPING A CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

by Dan McCrimmon

Some Background

The Casting Certification Program was begun when the FFF recognized the need for highly qualified instructors to teach the sport. The idea is that well qualified instructors will teach and train their students properly. Good initial instruction greatly reduces the number of people who start fly fishing, become frustrated, and quit.

The FFF Casting Board of Governors was formed to develop and administer a program and set standards. There are currently two levels of certification.

As you should already know, the Casting Instructor Certification (or first level of the program) includes a written test, a performance or casting test (which examines the candidate's instruction and demonstration skills) and a workshop. The workshop is given before the testing, usually by the CBOG or Masters who are testing the candidates. The workshop was not intended as a pre-test lab, where the Masters or BOG would show the candidates how to do the test casts, demonstrations and instructional elements or to prep them for the written test.

Having passed my Master Certification recently, I started to look for help with my workshop presentation. I had attended several workshops already and knew that there was a big inconsistency in content and delivery.

The casting skills test had been created and standardized. Written tests had been developed and distributed to the Masters. However there is no official or standardized certification workshop or workshops developed by the FFF.

It is important that CCI candidates form a positive impression of the certification process. We want them to go away with a sense of the quality of our organization and our casting certification program. The workshop is an introduction to the process and it should be a professional, organized, comprehensive and logical process.

We are, in essence, marketing a product. Our product is the FFF and its Certification Program. It is important then to ensure that our workshops and any workshop materials are of the highest quality in presentation, content and appearance.

One Workshop? One Source?

The FFF has some of the finest casters and flycasting teachers in the world amongst its ranks. Each of them has a view and an opinion. Each expresses it in the way they teach or instruct.

Therefore it doesn't make sense for the CCI program to have just one workshop. We have the unique ability to create a wide range of workshops and handouts that can draw upon the writings of all of our Board of Governors, Masters and others.

The workshop should be a work in progress that develops and grows together with a set of supporting materials. A range of workshops can draw upon previously published articles and guides that would be part of a growing library.

Certified Master Casting Instructors and Board of Governors who give our workshop to potential Instructors are confronted with a variety of considerations.

1. How much time do I have?
2. What type of space do I have available to present my workshop?
3. What level have these candidates reached?
4. What type of material should I present?
5. What material am I as an instructor most comfortable in presenting?
6. What materials and hand-outs can I leave with these

Designing and assembling this type of workshop would not have been possible even just a few years back. Now the Web offers us the ability to select what we need from a web site and create custom workshops and associated handout materials from any number of existing templates. The templates would be designed by the BOG and workshop committee to ensure the highest quality possible and to assist the masters giving the workshop the necessary help in answering the questions above.

The workshop structure can be augmented with a library of handouts. This gives us the ability to create workshops to match most circumstances. Also, because the workshop database is modular, it is easy to refresh

a workshop so that we are not presenting the same material the same way each and every time.

What Could the Workshops Look Like?

The workshops, once assembled by the Master or BOG will have a professional appearance. The FFF logo and artwork will be integral to each page.

A demonstration workshop was designed with the assistance of some of the more experienced Masters and posted up onto the web. The idea behind the prototypical workshop was to provide a potential template for future workshops. The emphasis of the demonstration workshop is teaching, training and instructional methodologies.

There is information about the FFF as well as its goals and objectives. There is also information for the candidates on improving themselves as instructors and fly fishers in the future.

The workshop was not designed as a teaching tool to assist in the casting performance evaluation element of the test, or as a study session for the written test. It is assumed that any candidates attending this workshop would be fully prepared for the performance and written aspects of the certification process or else they would not be in attendance.

The Demonstration Workshop

The demonstration workshop, which is 75 minutes in length, is structured as follows:

1. Allotted times are shown for each subject and section.
2. The time remaining after each section has been completed, is shown.
3. There is a timing color bar running down the left side of page for a quick visual reference:

Green – You have time remaining.

Amber (Orange) – Time is running out

Red – Time to wrap-up.

The demonstration workshop covers the following items:

1. What is the objective of the casting program?
2. FFF Angling Code of Ethics.
3. Who runs the program?
4. What will be your obligations as an FFF Certified Instructor?
5. What do the best instructors do?
6. How do students learn?
7. Substance and style. What are they?
8. Loop shapes.
9. Analysis of the casting stroke.
10. Instructional methods - Training aids.
11. Keep it Simple - Simplify your explanations.
12. Improving as a flycasting instructor and flyfisher.

The sections are supported by a numbered hand-out for easy reference by the candidates during discussions. Those handouts are:

- #1 - Mission/Federation Code of Ethics - FFF BOG
- #2 - Training Skills - Compiled by Jim Watkins
- #3 - Communication - by Bruce Richards
- #4 - Principles of Adult Learning
- #5 - Arm Styles - by Al Kyte
- #6 - Casting Analysis - by Steve Rajeff
- #7 - Simplicity - by Mel Krieger
- #8 - Instruction Methods - by Denise Maxwell
- #9 - Improving as an Instructor - by Peter Caverhill

Included at the download site is the *Instructors Certification Review Form* designed by Joe Libeu. This form is designed to show which casting skills and instructional segments the candidate was successful in demonstrating and which ones require more work.

Issues

Many issues and questions surround the giving of our workshops. For instance:

- Should the workshop be presented just prior to the written and practical tests?
- How long should a workshop be?
- Should there be more than one workshop? Should there be one workshop that emphasizes instruction and training methodologies and another that focuses entirely on the mechanics of casting?
- What about error correction?
- What about learning how to write a script and develop instructional demonstrations?
- What of teaching the disabled?
- What about ...well...fishing?
- If we want to cover all these issues in a single workshop, what balance should it have?
- What about a two-phase certification process for instructors? Phase One is the written and practical tests as they are now. Should Phase Two be a workshop on instructional methods after which the candidates will be tested?
- Should the workshops be given at completely different times?
- What amount of time, if any, should pass between the taking of the test and the workshop?
- Does giving the workshop just before the written and practical tests simply distract the instructor candidates from their objective?
- Should the history of the FFF, its goals and objectives be covered?
- What do we expect from the candidates that are taking the workshop?
- What impact does it have on long term retention when the focus of a workshop is on providing possible answers to the written and/or practical test, just prior to the candidate taking the test? Should this even be done?

What is Ethical Behavior for a Certified Casting Instructor?

By Tim Rajeff

To protect the reputation of the FFF Fly Casting Instructor Certification program and to help gain more respect among fly fisherpeople, many of us on the CBOG thought the time is right to come up with a Code of Conduct.

During the CBOG meeting at the Conclave in Idaho Falls last August, I proposed that a committee be formed that would develop a Code of Conduct for certified casting instructors. It was not my intention to create a "death squad" to punish people for any reasons if disagreements arise. It would be my hope that we create guidelines to help preserve the integrity and high standards of the Casting Program.

Every time a certified casting instructor acts in an unethical manor, it has the potential to tarnish the image of every certified casting instructor, master instructor and member of the board of governors.

It will be difficult to define what kind of relationships would constitute a breach of ethics but with the great group of people on the BOG I think it can be done in a fair and professional way.

We can all think of examples of unethical behavior as it relates to the conduct of a FFF certified casting test. I am sure we can all make lists of things we believe are unacceptable and should not be allowed under the code.

I propose that we work together to set up a system or a set of statements from which we can base all ethical judgments. I think that if we can come up with a set of unwavering principles, we can always come up with rules to follow.

Ultimately it is a person's behavior that is at the core of our organizations and is therefore is the key to our survival.

(Workshop - continued from page 2)

- Will the candidate retain that information or will he or she forget as soon as they are out of the test environment?

Conclusion

Currently there is just one demonstration workshop and related handouts available for review. The demonstration workshop can be found at:

<http://www.genservworld.com/workshop.htm>

A Workshop Committee has been formed to examine and make recommendations by next year's Conclave in West Yellowstone. The committee will establish guidelines as to what is acceptable as a workshop and we hope that several workshops can be prepared with input from our CBOGs and Masters.

In carrying out their duties as Certified Casting instructors, all instructors should exercise sensitivity, professionalism and honesty in all their activities. To maintain and broaden public confidence, Certified Casting Instructors should perform all professional responsibilities with the highest sense of integrity.

It will be the job of the Ethics Committee to create a set of principles from which all rules governing Ethics can be formed.

A few examples of the principles might be:

- In carrying out their duties as Certified Casting instructors, all instructors should exercise sensitivity, professionalism, and honesty in all their activities.
- To maintain and broaden public confidence, Certified Casting Instructors should perform all professional responsibilities with the highest sense of integrity.

The Code of Conduct is intended to establish the basis for characterizing the responsibilities a Certified Casting Instructor has to his or her clients, colleagues, and the public at large. The fundamental themes of the Principles and therefore the Code of Conduct are **to be committed to honorable behavior, even at the sacrifice of personal advantage.**

The Code of Conduct Committee members are Tim Rajeff, Dan McCrimmon, Bruce Richards, Charles Easterling, Charles Jardine, Macauley Lord, Marilyn Vitale, Phil Gay and Tony Vitale.

Tim Rajeff is a member of the Casting Board of Governors. He can be reached at www.rajeffsports.com

The workshops and handouts that will be prepared can be based on the workshops that our members are currently giving or new workshops can be developed.

The Workshop Committee members are Chuck Easterling as chair, Dan McCrimmon, Dusty Sprague and Denise Maxwell.

Dan McCrimmon is a Master Certified Casting Instructor from Vancouver, B.C.

Editor's Note:

We invite interested Masters and BOGs to submit workshop materials and templates or just some suggestions that you would like to see incorporated into a workshop. Send them to members of the Workshop Committee or the editors of the Loop. Thanks.

What Advice Would You Give Now?

By Robert DeAngelis

What advice would you give to a new, young and enthusiastic flycasting instructor that you wish you had received. I would like to hear your thoughts by e-mail to me at rdeangelis@louisville-tile.com. Your ideas will also be shared with The Loop editors for their discretionary use in publication.

I am considering co-presenting a workshop at the 2004 FFF Conclave geared at young flycasting instructors. The goal of the workshop is to target the young FFF members and Conclave participants, and to share ideas on what it takes to be a successful flycasting (and fly fishing) instructor.

The potential program includes:

- (1) Understanding of the FFF History and Resources
- (2) Discussion of the Development of Standard Lesson Plans
- (3) Development of Consistent Teaching Methodology and Supporting Materials, etc.
- (4) Defining Yourself, Your Standards and Your Style, and
- (5) Building Relationships with Fly Shops, Other Instructors, Schools, etc.

An example: Defining My Responsibility. The balance between immediate results and building the long term fundamentals. I recognize the tension between

getting results and preparing the growing fly fisher to adapt and be successful in real fishing situations.

I would like the student to face the “difficult times” while they are with me, and I must “manage” a teaching environment that allows for the trade-off to be evident – the expectation for a “quickie” lesson format should be set only with “informed consent” of what obstacles may be lurking ahead.

I have adopted value statements against which I attempt to measure my roll as an instructor.

- Am I setting realistic expectations as to the time frame necessary to become a proficient flycaster?
- Do I have a structured lesson plan that I have shared with the student that outlines what I believe would allow the student to attain that?
- Have I allowed the student to direct his/her learning in other ways, but consistent with my overall plan?

I would like to hear your thoughts by e-mail to me at rdeangelis@louisville-tile.com on any aspect of what advice you would give to a new, young and enthusiastic flycasting instructor.

Robert DeAngelis is a Certified Casting Instructor from Louisville, Kentucky

Virtual Fly Casting. Com

At last! A dedicated, non-profit web site, for dedicated FFF flycasting instructors. Now available on line, virtuallyflycasting.com, offers instructional advice on becoming a more efficient flycasting instructor.

Virtual flycasting .com, (VFC for short), is a vehicle for the enhancement of flycasting instruction. VFC covers the Essentials, Teaching Methods and Tips, Casting Terminology, Spey Casting, Certification Exams, and Fly Line Facts.

VFC is a text based site with a Video Library providing a common bank of casting images, as well as 50 other video clips, guiding you through the certification process each step of the way, as well as video clips demonstrating each of the 5 Essentials.

VFC also features a Cast of the Week where you can analyze in real time, a given casting stroke, and discuss how to apply instructional casting analysis, for faults and corrections, in a section called the Casting Pool. You may also submit DVD footage for casting analysis as well.

VFC is your site, its success depends on your participation and contributions. Enhancing the collective knowledge base of flycasting instruction is our goal! So log on to virtuallyflycasting.com and see what it's all about!

Matthew Handy CCI
Matt Evans CCI
Frank LoPresti MCCI

WANTED:

DEDICATED MASTERS TO JOIN THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is seeking BOG candidates. The board anticipates an election to fill at least one vacancy this year, though additional vacancies may occur.

To become a governor, the candidate must already be certified as a Master Instructor and be nominated by two sitting governors. A candidate's record of past performance will also be an essential prerequisite and deciding factor.

Questions will include:

- What has this candidate done to advance the Casting Instructor Certification Program in their home council?
- Has he or she attended the national conclave or taught a workshop?
 - Has he or she attended an annual meeting of the BOG?

The Board is currently underrepresented in the Southeast, Midwest, Northeast and Rockies but most of all, the board seeks dedicated members regardless of where they are from.

Interested Masters who want to serve on the board and those who wish to serve on future BOG committees, are invited to contact Julie Nelson, the Program Coordinator at the FFF National Office (email: julien@montanadsl.net).

They are urged to attend the BOG's annual meeting at the National Conclave (in West Yellowstone, August 2004). All Masters are invited to attend the meeting as observers.

From the Editors: Denise and Liz

If you haven't contacted Julie to receive your copy of the Loop electronically, please e-mail your current e-mail address to her asap. Julie will notify you when *The Loop* is available for downloading.

Back issues of the Loop should start appearing on the web site and we will inform you where and when that happens.

As we head into a new year, Liz and Denise would like to wish everyone a happy and successful new year that includes instructing, fishing and writing articles for the Loop. (just kidding about the Loop!)

In our quest for life and heeding our responsibilities, we often forget to make time for ourselves. Make time for your own casting practice, don't forget to go fishing and hope to see you at the Conclave.

Cheers,
Denise and Liz

THE LOOP STAFF

Editors: Denise Maxwell & Liz Watson

goldnwst@telus.net, 604-552-2181

elizabeth@finartghillie.com, 305-849-1672

Program Coordinator: Julie Nelson

castingcert@fedflyfishers.org, 406-585-7592

Chair, Board of Governors: Tom Jindra

tjindra@bellsouth.net, 504-392-7511

Fly Illustrations: Jason Borger

You can have a link from your FFF website listing to your own e-mail address. Contact Julie Nelson.

We welcome your submissions via e-mail or disk. Please attach a short (1-3 sentences) instructor biographical statement, including your location and Certification level. Please indicate whether or not you are willing to allow your submission's possible re-publication on the Program's web site. Any illustrations should be in TIFF format. *The Loop* reserves the right to decline any submission for any reason, and to edit any submission. All submissions should be sent to the National Office:

FFF Casting Instructor Certification Program

P.O. Box 1595

Bozeman, MT 59771

Fax: (406)-585-7596

E-mail: castingcert@fedflyfishers.org

Web: www.fedflyfishers.org/castingcert.shtml

COMING EVENTS for 2004

Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**

- Contact Julie Nelson at 406-585-7592
- *Schedule subject to change*

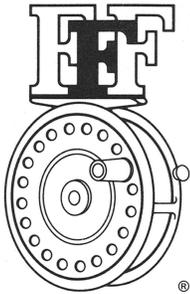
Phoenix, AZ	2/19-2/22	International Sportsman's Expo	Instructor
Charlotte, NC	2/21-2/22	The Fly Fishing Show	Instructor
Seattle, WA	2/21-2/22	The Fly Fishing Show	Instructor & Master
Bozeman, MT	2/21-2/22	The Outdoor Show	Instructor
San Rafael, CA	2/27-2/29	The Fly Fishing Show	Instructor & Master
Long Beach, CA	3/3-3/7	Fred Hall Show	Instructor & Master
Salt Lake City, UT	3/11-3/14	International Sportsman's Expo	Instructor
Mtn. Home, AR	3/13	Sowbug Round-up	Instructor

Freeport, Maine—L.L. Bean 2-Day Test Preparation Workshop and Teaching Workshop with Macauley Lord.
To register please call (888-552-3261). Dates for 2004: April 3-4 and April 10-11; May 29-30; September 4-5; October 9-10.

San Francisco, CA 04/23-25 Golden Gate Casting Club Speycasting Certification
Speyorama including spey certification, demonstrations, exhibits and competitions

West Yellowstone, MT 08/16-08/21 Conclave Instructor & Master

Contact Julie Nelson at (406) 585-7592 for pre-registration (must pay \$50 test fee for Certified Instructor or \$100 test fee for masters to hold spot)



FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

Fly Casting Instructor Certification Program

P. O. Box 1595

Bozeman, MT 59771

Address Service Requested