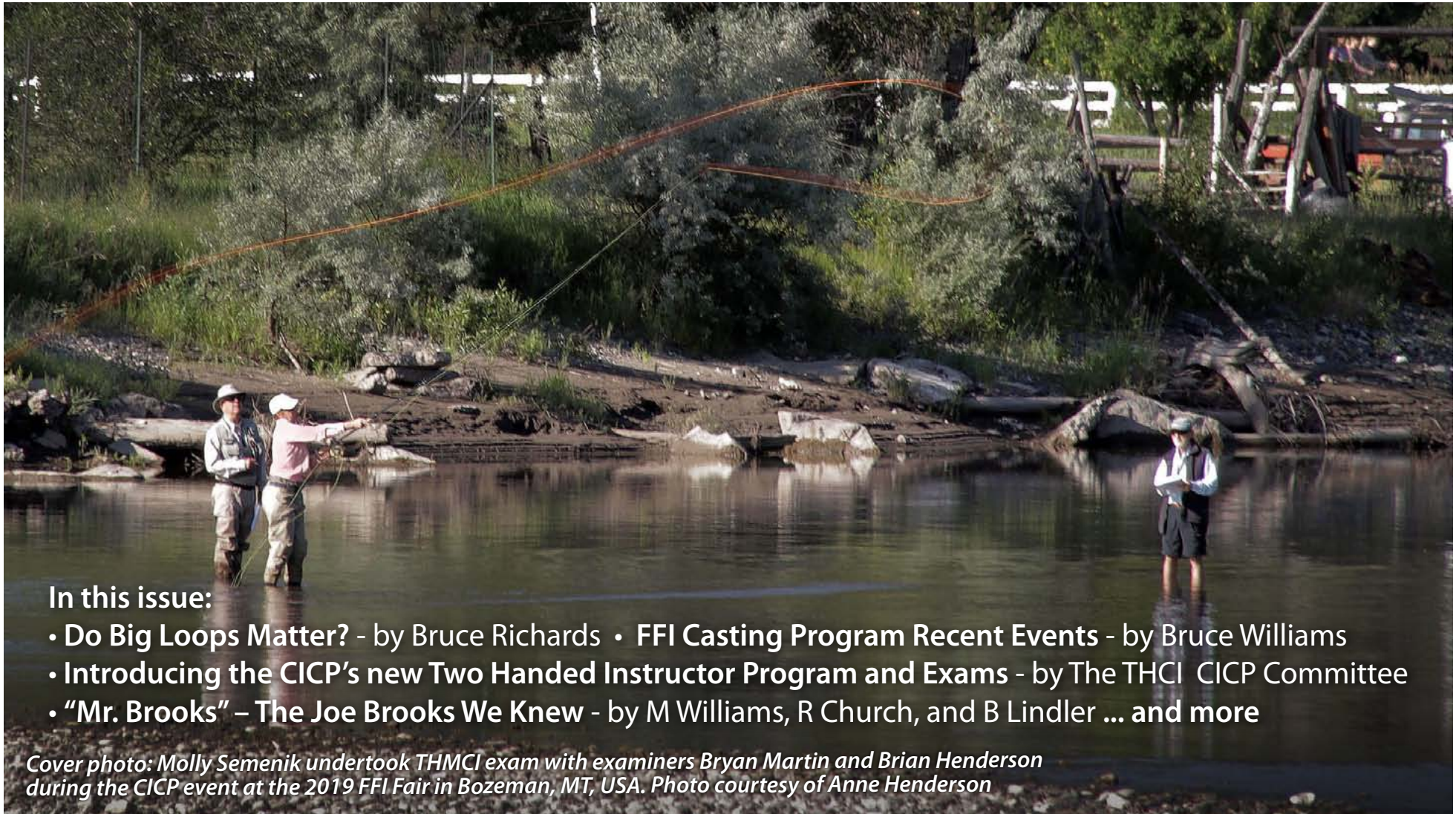


SPRING 2021

# The Loop



THE JOURNAL OF FLY CASTING PROFESSIONALS



## In this issue:

- **Do Big Loops Matter?** - by Bruce Richards • **FFI Casting Program Recent Events** - by Bruce Williams
- **Introducing the CICIP's new Two Handed Instructor Program and Exams** - by The THCI CICIP Committee
- **"Mr. Brooks" – The Joe Brooks We Knew** - by M Williams, R Church, and B Lindler ... and more

*Cover photo: Molly Semenik undertook THMCI exam with examiners Bryan Martin and Brian Henderson during the CICIP event at the 2019 FFI Fair in Bozeman, MT, USA. Photo courtesy of Anne Henderson*

## From the Editor-in-Chief desk

# Learning and Sharing

This is my first issue of The Loop as Editor-in-Chief (EIC). It is a great privilege to help build upon the foundation established by authors and editors who have contributed to the treasure trove of casting and casting instruction articles found in The Loop over time. I very much appreciate the support of Brian DeLoach, Bruce Williams, the Casting Board of Governors, and The Loop associate editors while beginning my tenure as EIC.

I am a retired research hydrologist and spent my career examining interactions between human activities and the condition of streams and watersheds. I have published extensively in the scientific literature and served a term as the EIC of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA). Perhaps more importantly, I have been a fly fisher for over 45 years and am a Fly Fishers International (FFI) Certified Master Casting Instructor (MCI).

I have realized that I am happiest when I am learning new things and sharing what I know about things I care about. I see The Loop as an opportunity for all of us who have a passion for fly fishing, fly casting, and fly-casting instruction to share our insights and

to learn from the insights of others. My desire is that The Loop will be a forum for all people, within FFI and without, to learn, to share, to express new ideas, and to enrich the fly-casting and fly-casting instruction community at large.

Therefore, I ask you to consider writing an article for The Loop. Articles can cover a wide range of topics, but include casting mechanics, instruction, testing and meaningful experiences. The current issue illustrates the range of articles we publish: the life-long influence that Joe Brooks had on three teenagers learning to fly cast; the casting mechanics of wide loops, new opportunities to learn and to teach two-hand casting; and more.

If you have an idea for an article, I encourage you to send a one paragraph summary of your proposed article to me at: [loop@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:loop@flyfishersinternational.org). This will allow me and our associate editors to provide feedback to you early in the writing process. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Jim Wigington*

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# *FFI Casting Program Recent Events*

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## **Bruce Williams, CBOG Chair**

The purpose of this article is to provide an update on the Fly Fishers International (FFI) casting program to all members of the FFI.

This is an exciting time for FFI. Through the energy of a new chair, Dave Peterson, and a new President, Patrick Berry, FFI is taking a fresh look at all of our programs, not only as regards content, but also considering the synergy amongst each of our centers of activity. My focus as chair of the Casting Board of Governors (CBOG) is on casting, but I have observed over the last couple of years that the casting program does not exist in a bubble-everything is interrelated! In order for the casting program to maximize its potential, the rest of the organization has to thrive as well.

The Casting Instructor Certification Program is the heart of what we do. Our goal is to train and certify the best casting instructors in the world. To that end, we constantly evaluate the relevancy of each of our Instructor Certification Exams. We now have four certification levels, two for single hand casting and two for two-handed casting. The Casting Board of Governors recently approved a refresh for the single hand (SH) CI exam, while the SH MCI exam was modified in 2019. The new entry level THCI exam will be launched this year. Like the (SH) CI exam, it also has a written, multiple choice component. This exam focuses on the use of the popular Scandi and Skagit short head styles, while the new THMCI (an update to the former THCI exam) continues to focus on more traditional mid-to-long belly two handed casting and greater assessment of TH teaching skills.

I wish to thank CBOGs Bryan Martin and Steve Hollensed for doing an outstanding job as co-chairs of the Exam Committee. This is one of the most contentious jobs in the entire casting program, and they have been endlessly patient and persistent through this evolutionary exam cycle.

Last year, the CBOG developed a new Strategic Plan for the casting program. In addition to emphasizing the core CICP (instructor development and certification), we have included a roadmap to leverage the casting expertise we develop for all FFI members. The casting program has played an essential role in developing casting instructional tools and materials for FFI's Learning Center for those who want to improve their casting and teaching skills, but not to the level of CICP certification. CBOG Emerita Molly Semenik and CBOG Emeritus Rick Williams were instrumental in developing the Fly Casting Skills Challenge (FCSC) as a fun program for anyone to improve their casting skills. CBOG Jim Sommercorn now heads this project, and a refresh has almost been completed. Jim is also working on expanding the Learning Center inventory of self-help casting videos.

The Fly Casting Skills Challenge has been so popular with FFI clubs and councils in the US, that an outreach initiative is being developed to take the FCSC to flyfishing clubs worldwide.

## FFI Casting Program Recent Events *continued ...*

Brian Henderson, a CBOG member from Australia has volunteered to head the outreach initiative. His initial results with clubs in Australia have been very encouraging.

Although the CICIP has not yet scheduled any live casting events this year, there is growing optimism, and some actual planning for post COVID casting events. In the meantime, the development and rollout of virtual events has hit a frenetic pace.

CBOG member Mary Ann Dozer is our leading technology guru. Mary Ann and Corie Berrigan were the architects of the Celebrating Women in Fly Fishing Virtual Expo, which took place over two days in December, 2020. The event attracted 250 attendees, with 20 presentations and 6 Sponsored Techie Talks. Based in part on the success of this event, serious planning has begun for a virtual FFI Expo to be held next November 5, 6, and 7th.

The casting program has developed successful virtual instruction and mentoring programs for CIs. These initiatives have been spearheaded by Mary Ann Dozer, Molly Semenik and CBOG Jonathan Walter. The demand for Casting Instructor certification preparation and mentoring programs has been vigorous, and groups are being formed across the country.

CBOG Gail Gallo, our new Continuing Education (CE) Chair, organized a very successful virtual event on casting styles, presented by retired CBOG Keith Richard. Over 135 people signed up for the hour and a half webinar! Gail is already planning more. In addition to traditional casting and teaching topics, some thought is being given about how to present CE programs on virtual casting instruction.

There is an increasing need for Certified Instructors to conduct virtual webinars and Gail is exploring ways to help our CIs develop those skills.

For many years the casting program has been losing touch with the FFI Councils. In an effort to re-energize our relationship with the Councils, Jody Martin, a Certified Instructor from southern California, has taken the initiative to identify and organize the Casting Directors from each of the 17 Regional Councils. Council Presidents Committee chair Todd Heggsted has been instrumental in supporting this initiative. Jody recently reported that 15 Councils now have Casting Directors in place.

Also at the Council level, Jonathan Walter has organized the Certified Instructors within the Eastern Rocky Mountain Council in an effort to learn about the goals and objectives of this group. We anticipate that Jonathan's model of participation could be used by every Council to engage their Certified Instructors.

I am also pleased to report that Jim Wigington has accepted the Editor-in-Chief position for The Loop, the CICIP Journal of Casting Professionals. Jim has extensive experience writing for and editing professional publications, a skill set that should be very appropriate for The Loop editor. Brian DeLoach and his editorial team has served us very well during their tenure, and I wish Brian well as he works toward completion of his Doctoral dissertation.

In the face of our major challenge with the COVID pandemic, we are working hard to develop alternative means to teach casting and showcase our teaching and casting skills.

**FFI Casting Program Recent Events** *continued...*

Certainly our reliance on ZOOM calls and other virtual media will diminish as the pandemic subsides, but I do not believe it will go away. These new tools will remain useful. Along with new tools, your Governors are looking for members of the CICP to participate at any and all levels, and at the leadership level specifically. The CBOG works hard to shepherd the casting program, and we need a steady source of ideas and enthusiasm to sustain our momentum. Please let me know if you would like to be considered as a candidate for the Casting Board of Governors.

I am excited about the challenges facing the casting program, and appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Chair.

**About the author:**



Bruce is a passionate fly fisher and casting instructor.

He earned the Master Casting Instructor designation in 2005, and the Two-Handed Casting Instructor certification in 2014.

He currently serves as Chair of the Flyfishers International Casting Board of Governors and is a member of the FFI Board.

**IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FFI CICP PROGRAMS**  
**Please click these following links:**

- [Click here for further information on Casting Instructor Certification Program.](#) 
- [Click here for further information on CI, MCI, THCI and THMCI study and exams materials.](#) 
- [Click here for further information on Next available CICP Exam dates.](#) 



*CICP Exam in progress with two examiners, two EDP participants and an interpreter.*

# “Mr. Brooks” – The Joe Brooks We Knew

## Marvin Williams, Robbins Church, and Bert Lindler

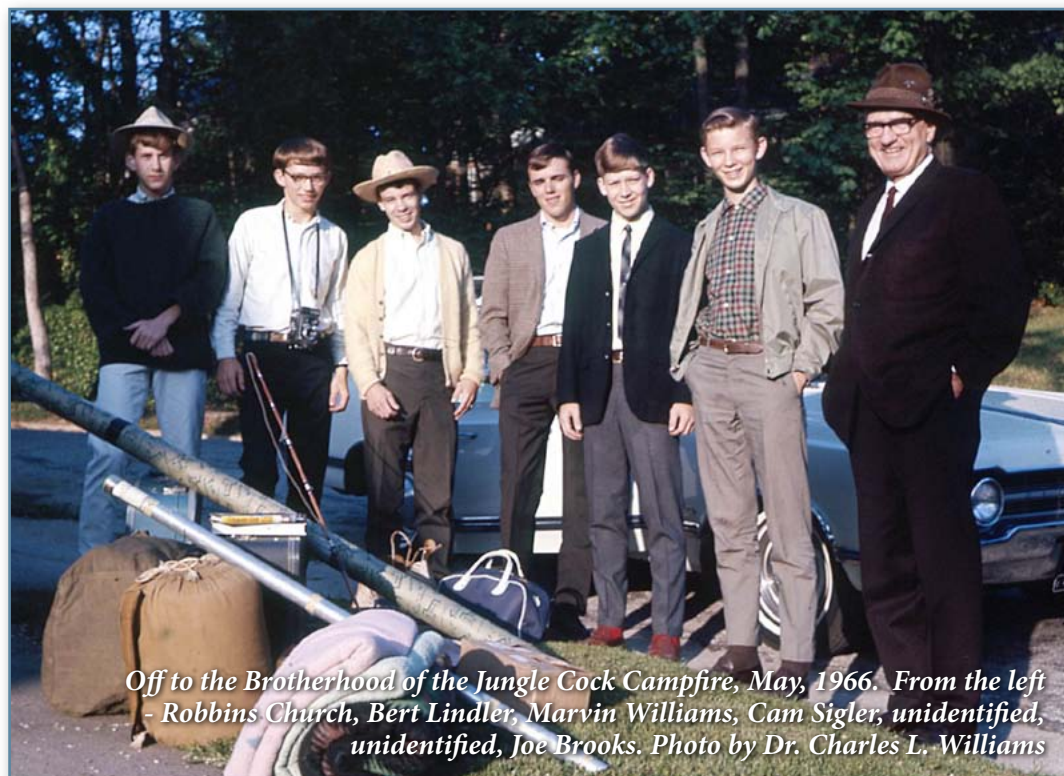
In the 1960s, Joe Brooks was fly fishing, not only in North America but around the world. He was fishing editor of *Outdoor Life*, author of more than half-a-dozen books, and a frequent guest on the celebrity outdoor television show *The American Sportsman*. To those of us lucky enough to have known and been mentored by Joe Brooks, our relationships involved much more than fishing.

Being southern boys, we first knew our mentor as “Mr. Brooks.” Partly because that is how we were raised and partly because of the quiet, almost reverent admiration and respect we had for him. The remembrances that follow are those of three boys who grew up in the 1960s with Joe and his loving partner, Mary, as mentors.

### Marvin

At the age of 12, I had just started cutting grass when my next-door neighbor asked if I would be willing to mow the lawn for an older couple down the street, Joe and Mary Brooks. Their names meant nothing to me. Later I learned that Mr. Brooks was the world’s foremost authority on fly fishing.

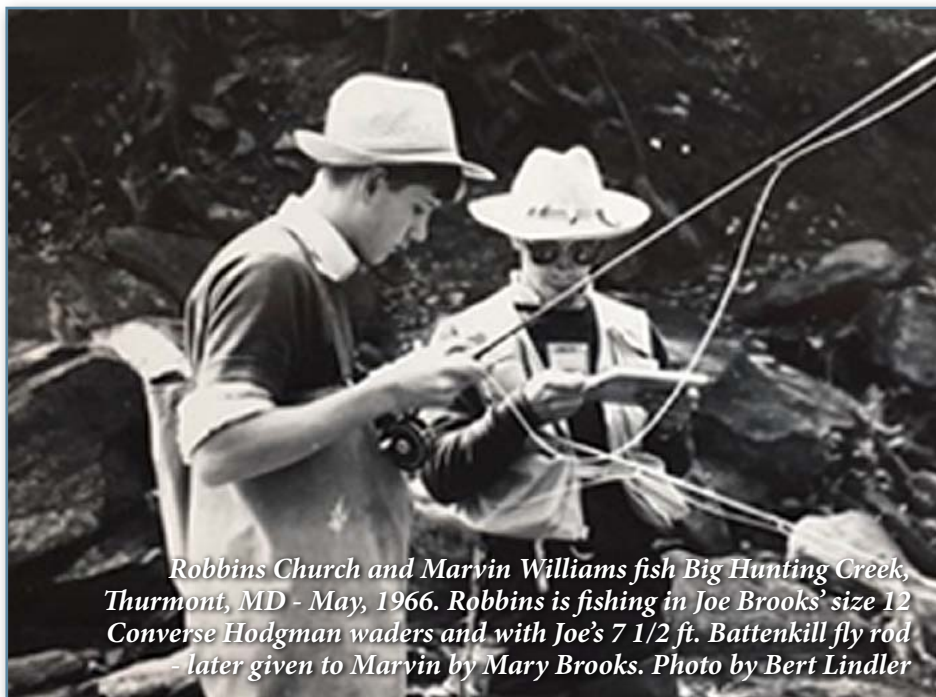
I had bottom-fished saltwater with bait but had never picked up a fly rod. Soon after meeting Joe, I wanted to learn a new way to catch fish. Joe took me out on his lawn and taught me the basics using one of his Orvis bamboo rods. Lift, flick back, stop. Flick forward, then stop.



*Off to the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock Campfire, May, 1966. From the left - Robbins Church, Bert Lindler, Marvin Williams, Cam Sigler, unidentified, unidentified, Joe Brooks. Photo by Dr. Charles L. Williams*

Start at 9 on the clock, stop at 2. Forward to 10 (for a false cast), back to 2, and forward to 9. Over and over, Joe’s large hand directed mine. Those early casts were sloppy—I never quite stopped the back cast at 2 as he instructed—and there was no zip or fluidity in my casting stroke. Joe kept encouraging me without being overly critical.

“Mr. Brooks” *continued ...*



*Robbins Church and Marvin Williams fish Big Hunting Creek, Thurmont, MD - May, 1966. Robbins is fishing in Joe Brooks' size 12 Converse Hodgman waders and with Joe's 7 1/2 ft. Battenkill fly rod - later given to Marvin by Mary Brooks. Photo by Bert Lindler*

My dad bought me an inexpensive outfit. Rods were fiberglass at the time. I practiced by myself in the front yard between Joe's lessons.

Joe didn't stop with the basics of the forward cast. He taught me to roll cast, shoot line on the backcast, and stop the rod in a horizontal plane at the end of the final throw. He went through the mechanics of the sidearm cast with the rod parallel to the grass and the double haul. Together, we worked on the curve to the left and the curve to the right casts, plus the roll cast pickup and casting into the wind. In between Joe's lessons, I practiced the casts over and over on my front lawn until I got them right, or mostly so. Joe kept me supplied with used lines and rods given to him by companies seeking his

endorsement. His enthusiasm kept me trying. Over time, I became a better caster.

Each spring, I got to use my new skills when Joe took me to the weekend-long campfire of the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (BOJC), which Joe helped found in 1940. The organization was chartered to teach young people to fish, enjoy the out of doors, and respect the natural world.

I remember Joe taking me down to Big Hunting Creek during one of my first campfires. We knelt by a promising riffle, tied on a nymph, and with Joe's hand on top of mine, cast our offering into the flow. A rainbow grabbed it, and I soon held in my hand a prize of immeasurable worth.

After Joe's death in 1972, Mary asked whether there was anything of his that I would like to have. I received the 7½-foot Orvis Battenkill bamboo fly rod with which I had caught my first trout. It remains one of my most prized possessions.

Catching fish was only a tiny part of the rewards I received during my times with Joe. He emphasized my responsibility as an environmental steward and opened the door to a new world of enjoyment, encouraging me to pass on to others the gift he had so graciously given to me.

I continue to do so, volunteering as a fly tying and casting instructor with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing at our local Veterans Administration hospital. I have sponsored my now 13-year-old granddaughter, Victoria, to the BOJC fall weekends in Virginia. In 2019, she won the casting competition, thanks to instruction passed from Joe through me to a younger generation.

“Mr. Brooks” *continued* ...



I had the privilege of taking Victoria’s friend, Leyton, to BOJC campfires in Maryland and to the Virginia gatherings. They have both been to the edge of the Chesapeake Bay fly casting for stripers, red drum, and spotted sea trout. In February of 2020, Victoria accompanied me to the Bahamas, where she waded carefully, cast to bonefish she sighted, and landed her first of several bonefish on the fly. Joe and Mary would have been proud.

**Robbins**

In 1957 my family moved to a new neighborhood in Richmond where three things changed my life—my grade school friend Marvin, the James River where we would fish, and Mr. Brooks.

Marvin and I explored the James, first with spinning rods. Then he started bringing the fly rod Mr. Brooks taught him to use. Marvin tried teaching me to fly cast, without success. Finally, he said, “Let’s go see Mr. Brooks.”

My casting lessons were not as extensive as Marvin’s but involved a large hand over mine and guidance, not to positions on a clock face, but, instead, to the rhythms of the cast.

Trips to the BOJC in Maryland followed, including catching my first trout on the same rod Marvin had used. Marvin and I frequently dropped in to visit with Mr. Brooks, who always wore a jacket and tie, even though he worked alone in his basement office. Whether he was working on a book chapter or planning his next trip, he always made us feel welcome and always found a way to involve us in what he was doing. Through him, we met our new, life-long friend-to-be, Bert Lindler.

In 1967, after our first year in college, Joe wrangled summer jobs for Bert and me in Sun Valley, ID—with Marvin joining us at the end of the summer so that we could fish together. We knew nothing of Sun Valley, but we did want to fish in Idaho, especially Silver Creek. And boy did we fish Silver Creek—during the glorious days before silt, browns, and crowds!

We fished a wide variety of other waters as well—far different in character and setting than any we had known in Virginia.



“Mr. Brooks” *continued* ...



Joe’s generosity made this all possible. These early experiences fishing, observing, and pondering the ways of hills, valleys, and their waters were both the genesis and the inspiration for my eventual

graduate studies and life’s work as a watershed hydrochemist and aquatic ecologist.

Our first summer in the West led to opportunities for Bert and me to guide in Idaho and, with Marvin, end-of-the-summer trips with Joe and Mary fishing the Henry’s Fork, the Big Hole, the Yellowstone, and Armstrong’s and Nelson’s Spring Creeks. When you were a kid fishing with Joe Brooks, you paid no access fees - you were a welcome walk-on. Our Virginia manners, reinforced by Joe’s everyday examples of humility, class, and grace, served us well: yes sir, yes ma’am, thank you.

Often Joe would place us in the best pools, at the best times, and sometimes he stayed with us, putting away his rod and sacrificing his scarce fishing time to serve as our gentle guide.

Twenty years old, on the great trout streams of Montana and Idaho, in the early fall with snow dusting the high country and leaves going gold in the cottonwoods, with your mentor and friend Joe Brooks as your teacher, fishing companion, and personal guide—we three boys lived it. And I recall those moments as vividly as if it were yesterday—just as clearly as I hear Joe’s soft, distinctive voice and his words of advice and encouragement. Over 50 years later, there remain no adequate words of my own, only quiet tears of remembrance. Thank you, Joe.

**Bert**

The letter, when it arrived, was not as thick as a college acceptance packet but turned out to be just as meaningful. When I wrote Mr. Brooks asking his advice on becoming an outdoor writer, I had already authored a couple of articles for Virginia Wildlife.

“Mr. Brooks” *continued...*



Mr. Brooks invited me to visit him at his home in Richmond, VA, a Greyhound ride away from my home in Williamsburg. As I descended into the basement where he worked, I was introduced to his library and office and shown the tackle room where he stored the makings for fishing trips near to home or a world away.

I left with a pair of Hodgman waders and, most importantly, the assurance that Mr. Brooks would invite me to the BOJC campfire in Maryland the following spring.

At the time, I was fishing for largemouth bass and panfish in a lake behind my home. Trout were something I read about when the outdoor magazines arrived each month on the day that I somehow became too sick to make it to school.

The BOJC campfire was a full weekend of fishing, movies, fly tying, casting demonstrations featuring Joe Brooks and Lefty Kreh (introduced to fly fishing by Joe), and, most importantly, the opportunity to form lasting friendships with Marvin and Robbins.

Joe knew we wanted to fish the trout streams of Montana and Idaho, so he helped Robbins and me land jobs at Sun Valley, ID, where I served as a lifeguard and Robbins assisted the tennis pro. Marvin joined us at the end of the summer, allowing us to introduce him to fishing Western style.

As the summer wound to a close, Joe invited us to fish with him on the Big Hole. Joe took me to the Morning Glory hole one evening just before dark. He had me fish a muddler minnow downstream in the rapids at the head of the pool, cautioning me to use my 5X tippet (probably just 2-pound test at the time).

No fish for me that night, but on the drive back through the rancher's hayfields after dark, Joe became pensive. "They used to stand up when I walked into the bar," he said. Later I learned more about Joe's early days as a fighter, a semiprofessional baseball player, a golfer, and an alcoholic. Joe once told me he could remember waking up with DT's in a Chicago jail cell.

## “Mr. Brooks” *continued...*

After I returned home penniless, my father consigned me to summer jobs closer to home.

During my college years, the Vietnam War was raging, and so were many college students who felt Southeast Asia should have no place in their future.

I couldn't fish much during those years, but I recall visiting Joe when my hair was long and shorts and sandals were my idea of appropriate attire. Neither Joe nor Mary said anything about my new look or my politics, which they might have guessed also had changed.

When I next needed a summer job, Joe hit a home run, lining me up to be a shop rat and fill-in fishing guide with Will Godfrey on the Henry's Fork of the Snake, long before the river's fame and crowds.

I had two summers on the Henry's Fork before being drafted. That last summer I got to guide Joe and Mary on the Railroad Ranch, using Will's drift boat. For some years, Joe had been taking nitroglycerin to relieve angina. As the day wore on, I noticed Joe slipping tablets under his tongue. When we stopped to wade, I had to sit on the drift boat's gunwale to dip it low enough for Joe to get in and out.

For many years, Joe had told me he wanted to die “With a fly rod in



*September 17, 2007. Joe and Mary Brooks Memorial Bench on Nelson's Spring Creek, Livingston, MT. Photo by Robbins Church*

my hands, facing upstream.” His worst fear was that he might be bedridden in his final days.

I was in training as a medic at Fort Sam Houston, TX, when I learned that Joe had collapsed in Livingston after a day's fishing on Nelson's Spring Creek. He died while being medevac'd to the Mayo Clinic.

I visited Mary that winter before being shipped to Germany. I had

## “Mr. Brooks” *continued ...*

completed a year of graduate school in journalism. “You must visit Johnny Neumeyer, the outdoors editor at Stars and Stripes”, Mary told me. I sent a letter to Johnny Neumeyer and promptly got a reply from Mert Proctor, then the managing editor at Stars and Stripes.

Four months later, I was at Stars and Stripes, a Private First Class in the United States Army, wearing civilian clothes, reporting from across Europe, and fishing with Johnny Neumeyer on the section of trout stream that he leased.

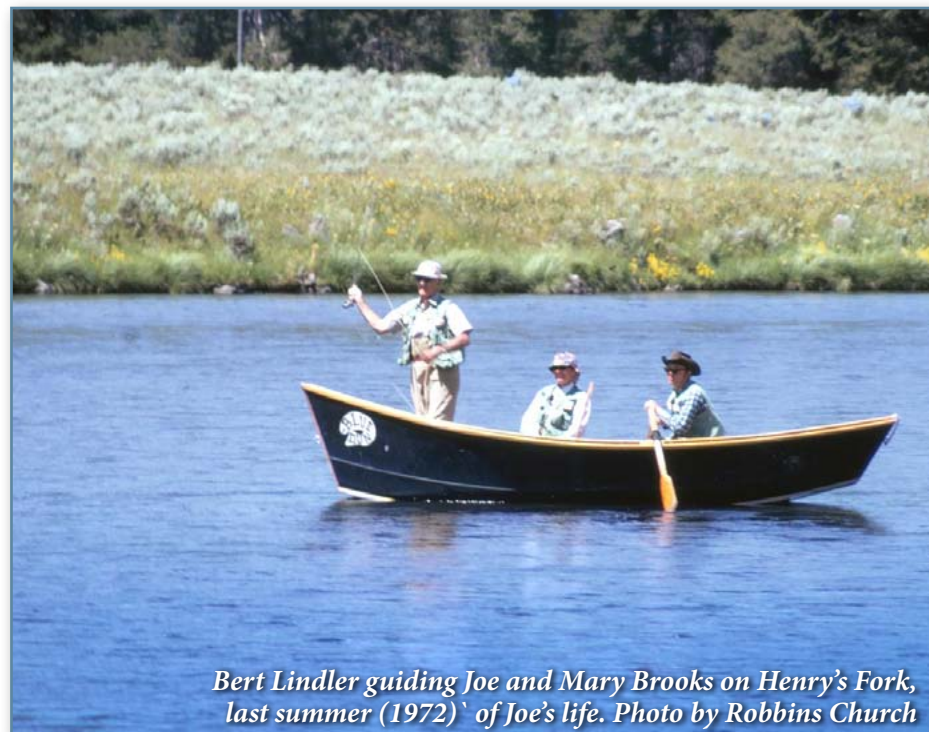
Even in death, Joe Brooks continued, and he continues through this day, to influence my life as a fisherman, journalist, and conservationist.

### **Final Casts**

The three of us kept up with Mary. Bert and his wife, Kristi, visited when Mary was living in Sun City, AZ. She golfed with friends and used her golf cart as her town car. She still got in some fishing, particularly at Nelson’s Spring Creek.

When Mary became unable to live on her own, she moved to an assisted care facility in Livingston. Helen Nelson cared for Mary just as she would have her mother. Bert visited Mary there, and Robbins and Marvin kept up an active correspondence.

We three (no longer boys) reunited on Oregon’s North Umpqua River in the summer of 2017, with Robbins fishing the 8½ foot 8-weight Battenkill rod that Joe had given him nearly 50 years earlier. Marvin caught the only steelhead of that trip, but all three of us landed even more memories. On that trip, thanks to Tom Pero and Alex Joseph, we also ended up with brief appearances in the documentary film Finding Joe Brooks.



*Bert Lindler guiding Joe and Mary Brooks on Henry’s Fork, last summer (1972) of Joe’s life. Photo by Robbins Church*

Joe and Mary are buried at Parkview Memorial Gardens south of Livingston on East River Road, overlooking the Yellowstone River and just down the road from Nelson’s. The modest marker for their gravesites can be found in a wonderful out-of-the-way spot, quiet and beautiful.

Feel free to visit and pay your respects and also to thank Joe for his crucial contributions to helping keep the Yellowstone undammed and free-flowing. We do—every time we are near.

Thanks again, Joe. For everything.

“Mr. Brooks” *continued* ...



#### **About the Authors:**

**Marvin Williams, M.D.** earned a B.S. in biology from the University of Richmond in 1970, graduated from the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University in 1974, and completed a 3-year residency in Family Medicine at Riverside Hospital in Newport News, VA. He was in private practice in Richmond from 1977 until retiring at the end of 2014.

**Robbins Church** holds a bachelor’s degree in analytical chemistry and a Ph.D. in aquatic ecology from the University of Virginia. His research career has spanned a range of topics, most notably

prediction of possible future effects of acid rain on lakes and streams, hydrochemistry of forested catchments, and stable isotope ecology of salmon streams of the Pacific Northwest. He pioneered the analysis of stable isotopes in the epidermal mucus of fish as a research tool in salmonid ecology. He retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Senior Research Scientist in 2013.

**Bert Lindler** was an outdoor and environmental writer for the Great Falls (MT) Tribune from 1976 to 1992 when he joined the U.S. Forest Service as a technical editor. Since his retirement in 2010, Bert has been a community and conservation activist based in Missoula, MT. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the College of William and Mary, a master’s degree in science writing from the University of Missouri, and a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Montana. He was a Nieman Fellow (1984) at Harvard University.

#### **Additional Information**

##### **Joe Brooks Documentary**

<http://joebrooksdocumentary.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/JoeBrooksFlyFishing>

##### **Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock**

<https://bojcmd.wordpress.com>

##### **Project Healing Waters**

<https://projecthealingwaters.org>

# DO BIG LOOPS MATTER?

Bruce Richards

Although this is really an article about big loops I want to start talking about loops in general. We all know what we usually want, a “good” loop. For most of us that means a loop with a pretty straight fly leg and no more than 3 feet of distance between the fly leg and rod leg. That’s an efficient loop and what we use most of the time. They look like this. (Fig. 1)

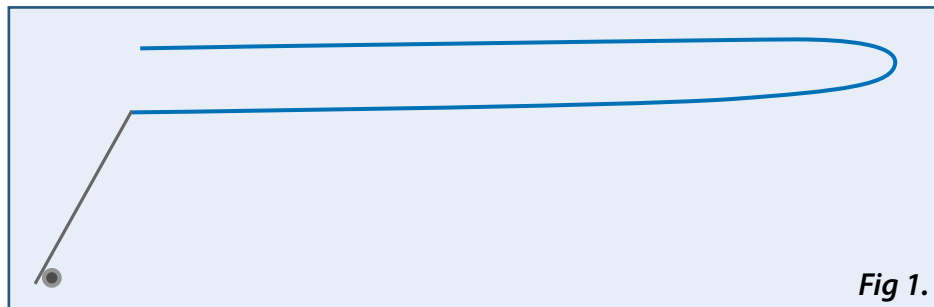


Fig 1.

Loops have two parts, a top or fly leg and a bottom or rod leg; they meet each other at the apex of the loop. (Fig. 2)

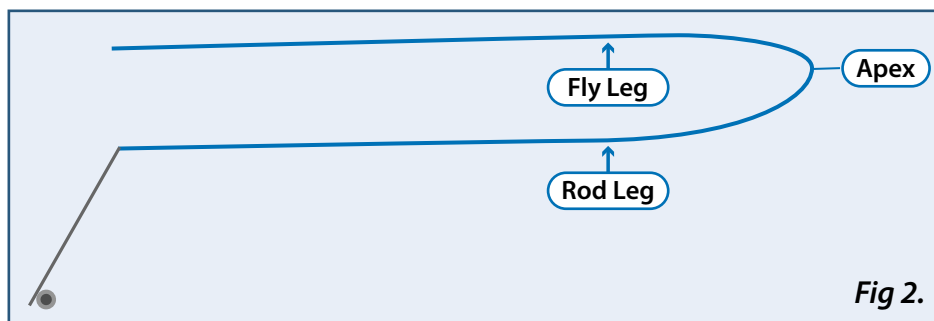


Fig 2.

We have long valued loop size, the “tight loop”, where the fly and rod legs are close together as seen in the two loops above. But much more important than loop size is the straightness of the fly leg. All parts of a loop don’t travel at the same speed. The fly leg is moving very fast, the rod leg moves very slowly or not at all. The loop apex moves at the speed of the fly leg and rod leg added together then divided by two. For this reason the fly leg is much more important than the rod leg or the distance between them. The straighter the fly leg is the less wind resistant, more efficient the loop will be. Here are two loops the same “size” but very different in efficiency. (Fig. 3)



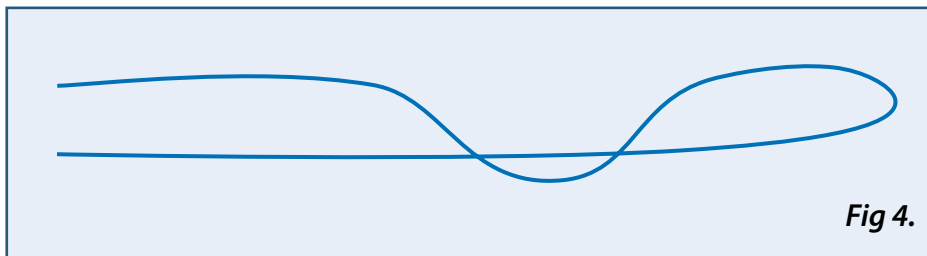
Fig 3.

You can see that there is much less distance between the apex and the fly leg on the top loop which means it has a straighter fly leg and is more efficient.

## Do Big Loops Matter? *continued...*

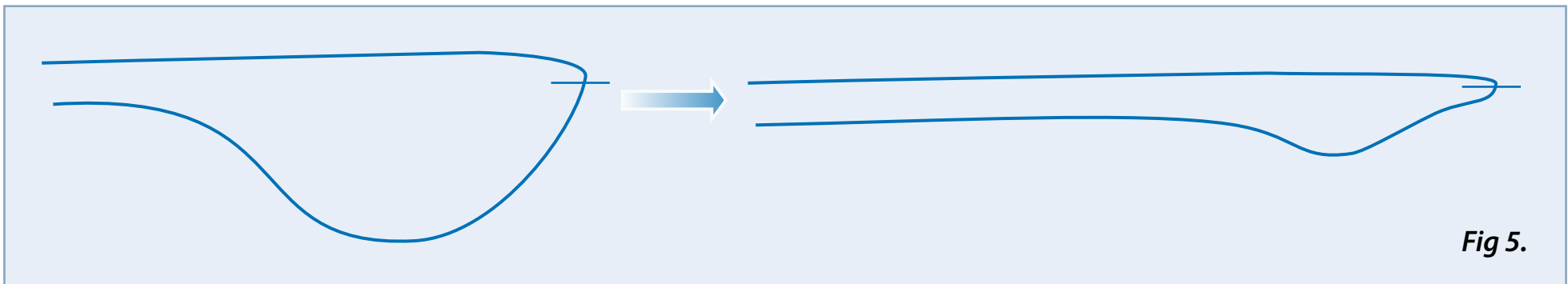
We all strive for a straight line path (SLP) of the rod tip during the casting stroke. The reason is this straight line tip path makes loops with very straight fly legs. Both of the loops shown in Fig.3 are pretty good loops, we'd be happy if our students threw either.

There are other loop shapes that are not as efficient. Sometimes we have good uses for even inefficient loops but often they are a problematic. An example of an inefficient loop is the tailing loop in which the fly leg has a dip in it that crosses below the rod leg. These loops are wind resistant, inefficient and often result in tangled leaders and wind knots. **(Fig. 4)**



Other loop shapes we commonly see are wide/big/open/"non" loops. FFI hasn't officially defined these loops so understanding of what they are varies widely. I've read descriptions of what all 4 names mean but there is no official definition for any of them so the descriptions are simply someone's opinion of what each term means. Personally, I don't worry too much about the size/width of a loop, just whether the fly leg is straight or not. If the fly leg is straight the loop will be relatively efficient no matter how wide it is.

We often see very wide but very efficient loops in extreme distance casts. During these casts the rod is bent dramatically by a very powerful, fast casting stroke. At rod straight position (RSP) the rod tip is traveling very fast and has a lot of momentum. It can't be stopped quickly and the rod counterflexes a lot which throws the rod leg into a big downward belly. This makes the loop very wide, temporarily. There is a lot of tension in the rod leg and this tension pulls the rod leg up as the loop progresses causing the so-called "morphing" loop. **(Fig. 5)**



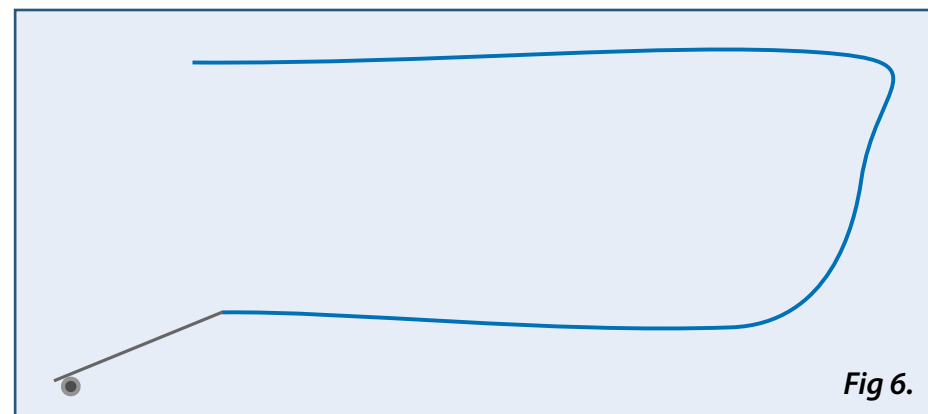
## Do Big Loops Matter? *continued ...*

These loops are very efficient because the fly leg is very straight. That is the only part of the loop going fast so is the only part that is seriously affected by wind resistance. The big rod leg belly can't be avoided in these casts. To many they appear to be big inefficient loops, but they are not. It takes a very talented and strong caster to throw these loops. As instructors we'll never be called on to fix them or even teach them. Usually the casters who throw those loops could teach us a thing or two! We will, however, often have to analyze and cure more common wide/big/open/"non" loops.

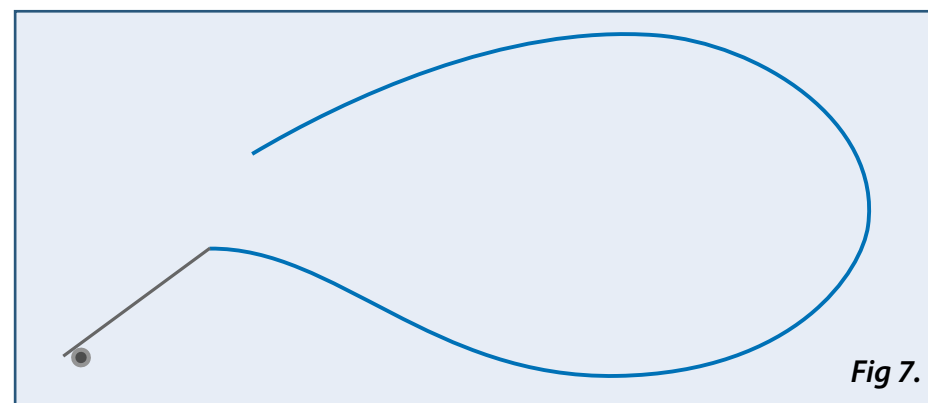
The term "non" loop has never made sense to me. It implies we have a loop that isn't a loop. I believe people using the term mean a loop that is so big it doesn't look much like a loop we would normally try to cast. But it is a loop; there was a casting stroke; the line was aerialized and a loop formed when the rod tip started to decelerate. The fly leg is a huge upward, convex curve and the rod leg curves downward, as a result they are far apart. To me these could be called very big, very open, or very wide loops. To talk about a "non" loop when we clearly have a loop is confusing, I wish that term would die a quiet death.

Regarding wide/big/open loops. I've read that one of these has a straight fly leg that is parallel with the rod leg but don't remember which one, and it doesn't matter. All have fly and rod legs that are separated by more than 4 feet. How they function as fishing casts is determined by whether their fly legs are straight or curved and the casters intent. If the intent is to make an efficient dry fly cast with straight leader delivery a loop with a straight fly leg is needed. Making a wide/big/open loop with a straight fly leg is possible but not easy. The caster must make a good casting stroke that results in a straight line tip path. The instant the loop forms at RSP the caster needs to quickly drop the rod tip straight down more than 4 ft. and stop it

there. This will yield a loop with a straight fly leg but with more than 4 ft. of separation between the legs. It would look like this (*Fig. 6*):



I don't know why anyone would want to do this but it can be done. It is much easier to make a normal good loop with a straight fly leg. Radically dropping the rod tip at loop formation is not necessary. By far the most common big/wide/open loops we see as casting instructors have upward, curving (convex) fly legs. The rod leg is typically curved in the opposite direction, as seen below. (*Fig. 7*)

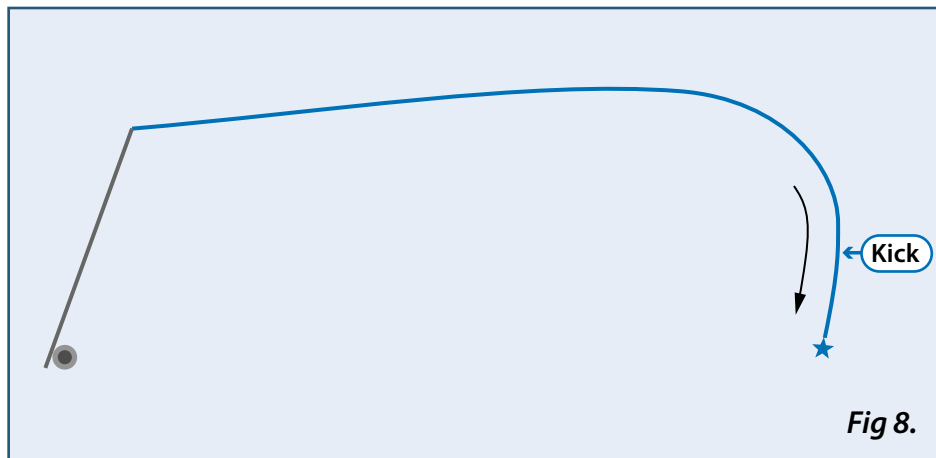




## Do Big Loops Matter? *continued ...*

These loops are typically made by beginning casters and are obviously caused by a rod tip path during the casting stroke that is a big upward curve. These loops are inefficient and we spend a lot of time fixing them. But there are good uses for these loops.

There are times when loops that are too efficient cause trouble. The best example of this is when throwing heavy rigs (weighted flies, split shot, high density fly lines, etc.). When these rigs are thrown with loops with straight, efficient fly legs the fly will kick very hard when it makes the rapid direction change when the loop straightens. The tuck cast and overpowered curve cast are good examples of a beneficial uses of this line kick. Both are delivery casts and the slack in the line caused by the "kick" gives us the result we want. When false casting though, line kick throws a lot of slack into the line making the next cast very difficult. Knowing how to reduce false cast line kick is an important skill.



When casting heavy flies line kick happens when the fly is going fast and makes a very rapid downward direction change as the loop

fully straightens. The fly has a lot of momentum and will kick down violently which throws a lot of slack in the line and may even throw the fly into the water. Unless we are trying to throw a tuck cast we do not want this kick. (*Fig. 8*)

If this same cast was made with a loop with an upward curving fly leg the fly direction change as the loop opens is much less abrupt and the kick is much reduced which reduces slack in the line. Because the fly is heavy and moving fairly fast it has plenty of momentum of its own and that momentum will carry the fly a good distance, pulling the leader straight behind it. That is just the opposite of what happens with a light, wind resistant fly that relies on energy transfer through the leader to reach the target. As we know, more force must be used when casting heavy rigs. We compensate for the lack of loop efficiency and the mass of the payload with extra force.

If the rig is not heavy there is still a good use for wide/big/open loops with upward curving fly legs. Do we ever want to make a delivery where the leader doesn't straighten? Of course. The pile cast is a good example. There are two commonly accepted ways to throw pile casts: 1) throw a good loop with a straight fly leg too high, or 2) throw a wide/big/open loop with an upward curving fly leg. The first results in a pile due to loop trajectory and the second results in a pile because the loop is inefficient and collapses. If you want a dramatic pile cast with lots of slack just throw a wide/big/open loop too high!

So far I have just dealt with vertical loops; loops made by tip path variations in the vertical plane. We also have to deal with tracking issues. But in reality these are the same as vertical wide/big/open loops just thrown in the horizontal plane. Just compare rod tip paths not considering plane.

## Do Big Loops Matter? *continued...*

A good example of a horizontal plane wide/big/open loop cast is the back cast of a Belgian style cast commonly used with heavy flies. The rod tip path of the back casting stroke is a big, sweeping curve.

The fly leg is curved to reduce fly kick and it is thrown sidearm so that what kick remains doesn't throw the fly down into the water but sideways and up to properly position the line/fly for delivering a safe forward cast.

Maybe someday we will have official definitions for all the various loop shapes but for now I think we'd benefit from simply considering whether the loop is narrow or wide and, much more importantly, whether the fly leg is straight or curved. There are real world uses for most of these loops. Which one we throw is determined by what we are trying to accomplish.

### About the author:



**Bruce Richards, MCI**, Montana, USA, designed many great lines for Scientific Anglers and wrote the seminal work, *Modern Fly Lines*.

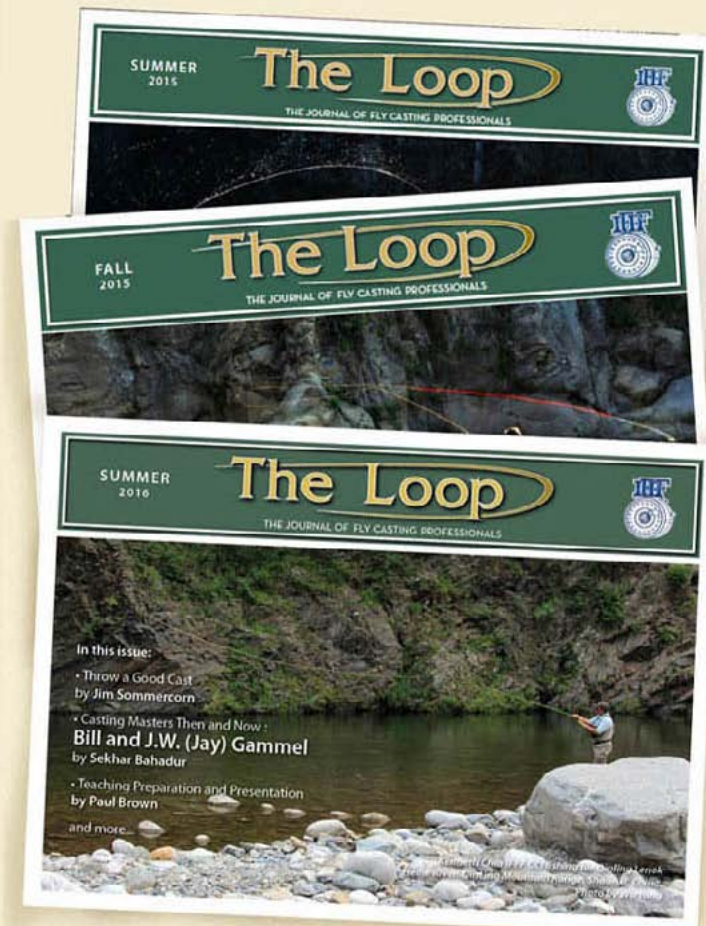
He is a former chair of CBOG and was instrumental in the development of the Casting Instructors' Certification Program (CICP).

Bruce is also member of The Loop editorial team

## WANTED

We're calling for article ideas from all CICP members, all casting instructors, and all fly fishing photographers worldwide. Please email your ideas and photos to:

[loop@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:loop@flyfishersinternational.org)



# ***Introducing The CICP's New TWO HANDED INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM AND EXAMS***

- **Rick Williams, MCI THMCI L3 Examiner**
- **Todd Somsel, MCI THMCI L3 Examiner**
- **Thomas Berggren, MCI THMCI L3 Examiner**
- **Bryan Martin, MCI THMCI L3 Examiner**

Over the last two years, the Casting Instructor Certification Program's (CICP) Exam Committee and the Casting Board of Governors (CBOG) have updated and expanded the CICP Two Handed (TH) casting program. The new program, initiated by the Exam Committee, kicked off in January 2021 and includes a new entry level two handed exam focused on modern short head lines and casting techniques (the new THCI exam) and a conversion of the existing THCI exam into a new master level exam (the new THMCI). The update gives the CICP a Two-Handed program that parallels the structure, sequencing, and rigor of the existing CI – MCI single handed side of the program.

## ***Development of the new TH Program***

In early 2019, the CICP Exam Committee sent a general survey out to 235 MCIs, THCIs, Governors, and Examiners to assay that group's perceptions and involvement with two-handed casting in general and with the CICP's THCI exam in specific. Questions included whether there was a need to clarify any of the THCI exam requirements, whether the exam needed to be modernized, whether it was relevant in today's two handed casting world, and whether an entry level two handed exam was favored. Ninety-four (94) instructors responded, including 20 CBOG/CBOG emeritus (CBOG-E) members.

Survey results showed there was widespread interest in TH casting among the MCIs who responded to the survey. There was also strong support for our then current THCI exam, which was generally perceived as a well-crafted and robust test. However, it was also perceived as being dated and not representing (or including) current casting emphasis in the fly fishing community relative to shorter head (Scandi and Skagit) lines and techniques.

In response to this valuable input, discussion among the Exam Committee members led to a decision to develop and introduce an entry level TH exam (named THCI), that focused on modern short head lines and casting techniques. Paralleling this, the existing and already rigorous THCI exam would be updated into a new master level exam named the THMCI.

Many months of work followed by the Two Handed Exam team (Rick Williams, Todd Somsel, and headed by Thomas Berggren) and Bryan Martin (Exam Committee Co-Chair) that included discussions on structure, content, and format for both new exams, including development of a written exam for the THCI similar in format to the written exam for the CI.

## New Two Handed Instructor Program and Exams *continued...*

Additionally, the new THCI exam was designed to spiral up to the THMCI, in the same manner that the CI exam spirals up to the MCI exam. During development (spring and summer 2020), drafts of both exams (THCI and THMCI) were circulated to an L3 (MCI and THCI validated examiner) peer review group for comments.

The L3 review group consisted of four THMCI instructors and L3 examiners (Bryan Martin, Mark Huber, Bruce Williams, Brian Henderson) and two new THMCI instructors who are Governors and L2 (MCI level) examiners (Molly Semenik and Bill Higashi).

Both exams benefitted from extensive input and review, which resulted in multiple iterative drafts (> 15) before completion. Reviews were provided by the L3 group noted above and the Exam Committee members, Steve Hollensed MCI (Co-Chair), James Sommercorn MCI and Sekhar Bahadur MCI THMCI for both exams, and for the entry level THCI exam, by a group of well-known TH instructors and guides, who specialize in casting and teaching short head line systems (Scandi and Skagit). Included in this latter group, were Simon Gawesworth MCI THMCI CBOG-E, Lasse Karlsson MCI THMCI CBOG-E, Silja Longhurst THMCI, and two well-known Oregon and Washington two-hand casters and short-head system instructors. Simon Gawesworth was one of the authors of the first THCI exam for the CICP (launched in 2004).

### ***THCI Exam***

The entry level THCI exam focuses on shooting head line systems, their casting, and the teaching of students on how to use them (including Scandi and Skagit line systems).

It also has a strong emphasis on TH casting fundamentals, and thus, spirals up to the THMCI exam.

The THCI has a lower difficulty level than the THMCI with fewer overall tasks and shorter casting distances (generally 65' and 85'). The THCI exam also includes a strong Teaching and Fault Correction section designed to assess the candidate's knowledge of casting fundamentals and teaching skills. Tasks are designed to assess the candidate's knowledge of various short head line systems, including casting mechanics and how to teach students effective casting with these line systems.

### ***THMCI Exam***

The difficulty level of the new THMCI exam remains very close to that of the old THCI exam. The overall number of performance tasks has been reduced and streamlined, and a new and simpler line marking (qualification) system described. Required distances for casts remain generally at 80' and 100' lengths. Similar to recent versions of the CI and MCI exams, the new THMCI places greater emphasis on teaching and has several new tasks added to the Teaching Performance Section. The Faults, Diagnosis, and Corrections sections have been structured in both the THCI and THMCI to reflect the approaches to fault correction used in the CI and MCI exams, respectively.

### ***Approval of the TH Program***

The new TH Program was approved by the CBOG at their July 2020 quarterly meeting. Both new exams went live in January 2021; however, during all of 2021 (January 1 to December 31), candidates would have the opportunity to take the new THMCI exam directly

## New Two Handed Instructor Program and Exams *continued...*

without having to first successfully pass the performance and teaching sections of the new THCI entry level exam. In addition, these candidates must also pass the new THCI written exam. Starting in 2022, however, THMCI candidates must obtain THCI certification (or have an equivalent THCI certification from another recognized casting instructor certification program) before taking the THMCI exam.

### ***Upgrade of Existing THCI Instructors to THMCI status***

All THCI instructors who obtained THCI certification prior to January 1, 2021, have been upgraded to THMCI status. The THMCI upgrade reflects the master-level rigor of the old THCI exam, as well as the achievement of the instructors prior to 2021 in obtaining their THCI certification.

### ***Next Steps***

At this time, a lot of information about the new TH program and exams exists on the FFI website. Nevertheless, the FFI website is undergoing a major update (due for release in March 2021) that will include access to the new THCI and THMCI exams content and preparation guides to assist both candidates and examiners to prepare for taking and administering these new exams.

Two hand casting is increasing in popularity, not only for migratory species but also for those normally targeted with single hand equipment. Shorter and lighter weight two hand rods provide exciting new fishing experiences and are often easier and less tiring to use than single hand rods.

If you are a single hand instructor, why not consider embarking on the two handed instructor program? It will increase both your own fishing opportunities, as well as expand your instructor capabilities.



# FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

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Two-Handed Casting Instructor

## ***IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TWO-HANDED CICP PROGRAMS Please click these following links:***

- ***Click here for further information on THCI and THMCI Program.***
- ***Click here for further information on THCI study materials.***
- ***Click here to download THMCI Exam.***
- ***Click here for further information on Next available CICP Exam dates.***



## New Two Handed Instructor Program and Exams *continued...*

### **THCI CICP EXAM COMMITTEE**



*Rick Williams, MCI and THMCI, Idaho, USA, is a fisheries conservation biologist. He is a former chair of the CBOG and helped develop many of the current CICP programs. He presently serves FFI as a Senior Casting Advisor and Senior Conservation Advisor.*



*Todd Somsel, MCI and THMCI, Washington, USA, operates PNW Fly Casting Academy, Winston Pro Staff and Ballistic Speylines Prostaff Member. He sits on the CBOG and helped develop many of the current CICP programs. He presently serves FFI as an ERC Chair and Advisor to the CICP Two Hand Test Sub Committee and Level 3 Examiner.*



*Thomas Berggren, Sweden, is a CBOG, MCI, THMCI, L3-Examiner and EDP Faculty. He presently serves as a member in Exam Committee and is the team leader for the Two-Handed Sub Committee as well as other committee work such as Board of Governors Executive Committee and the International Events Committee. Along with the contribution of FFI work, he runs a fishery and a fly fishing school in Sweden.*



*Bryan Martin, MCI and THMCI, is based in the UK and has fly fished for Salmon, Trout and Sea Trout in the UK, Ireland and Canada for over 40 years. He was Co-Chair of the Examination Committee which updated all the FFI current exams and is presently a faculty member and Level 3 Examiner. Bryan is also a qualified member of the Game Angling Instructors Association, the Association of Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructors and is a UK licensed game angling coach (L2UKCC).*

# The Test

## ***Reflections from a newly minted Casting Instructor***

**Jody Martin, CI, Thousand Oaks, CA, United States**

On March 5, 6, and 7 of 2020, 15 casting students gathered in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to take either the FFI CI or MCI casting certification exams. This event, FFI Test #2001, hosted by the Gulf Coast Council of FFI and organized by GCC Casting Chair Jeff Ferguson (MCI), was the largest FFI testing event ever held in North America. Candidates for the FFI Certified Casting Instructor (CCI) test, as well as for the Master Certified Instructor (MCI) test, came from as far away as California, Oregon, and Montana in the west to Florida in the east. To accommodate the large number of candidates, MCI Level 1 and 2 examiners were brought in from several states, including Louisiana, Wisconsin, and New York. The final result was a three-day event that included 7 examiners and 15 candidates (12 CI and 3 MCI) representing 13 states. Of those 15 candidates, 8 passed and 7 did not. In addition to the certification testing, EDP validation requirements for three L-2 examiners were completed, and another L-2 EDP candidate satisfied all but one requirement. What follows is an account of the event through the eyes of one of the successful CI candidates.

“Would you mind doing that again for us?”

Those were not the first words I was hoping to hear from my lead examiner. I was nervous enough as it was. This man is a legendary



*Candidates attending the mandatory workshop in the Isle of Capri Hotel and Casino Boardroom in Lake Charles, Louisiana.*

fly fisherman and caster, an award winning instructor, an MCI Level 2 examiner who, to put it mildly, knows his stuff. He is also an extremely kind and courteous gentleman. He had been assigned to administer the test to determine if I was ready to become an FFI certified casting instructor. Like all students, I was concentrating hard and hoping to make a good first impression and hoping that the initial reaction from my examiners might be something positive.

## The Test *continued...*

But he had a very good reason for asking me to do the first task again. I had thought that the initial pickup of my rod and line was, in essence, a back cast, so that when I came forward with my rod and line, I could count “1” when the line completely unfurled in front of me for the first time. But the pickup is just that – a picking up of your line – so it does not count as a back cast. Thus, when I reached the magic number 6 and then laid my line down along the tape measure, thinking I had started off well and performed brilliantly for this first task, I was only at magic number 5. I had failed to complete the task: “Demonstrate a minimum of six false casts with controlled narrow loops on both the forward and back casts at 40 feet (12.2 meters).”

The lead examiner could not have been nicer, or more encouraging, or more supportive. This was also true for the secondary examiner, another extremely qualified MCI Level 2 examiner whose name was also known to me. The third observer, another MCI, was there as part of his own Examiner Development Pathway process (the process through which instructors learn how to become an examiner), so technically he was not one of my examiners. Still, there were three of them, all well known, all master casting instructors, all watching carefully. And I had started off badly. I felt like crawling into a hole.

In fact, the entire day had started off on something of a bad note. March in southern Louisiana is usually beautiful, but it can be an unpredictable time of year. With wind, cold, and rain in the forecast for that week, we had hit the spring trifecta.

Why, you might ask, was I in Lake Charles, Louisiana, when I live and work in Southern California? It’s a good question. The answer is that there are a limited number of opportunities to take these casting tests each year, and if you wait for one to be offered in your part of the

world, you could be waiting a long time, perhaps years. So you have to go where the tests are being given (or in some cases schedule a special event for yourself locally, if you have local qualified examiners who are willing to do that). Southern California did eventually schedule a CI testing event for later in March of 2020, but as luck would have it I was going to be out of town that weekend (and that event was eventually cancelled anyhow because of insufficient turnout, even though COVID would have shut it down later). So I said “why not?” and flew to Louisiana. It was not an inexpensive trip, and candidates should be prepared for the costs associated with traveling to FFI testing events, costs that include airfare, a hotel room, a rental car, and food. But I felt ready to finally take the test and did not want to wait any longer.

The performance portion of the tests had been scheduled for the Lake Charles / Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau on North Lakeshore Drive. Located just off US Interstate 10, this is an ideal venue for testing. Plenty of open space and even grass lawns provide areas for setting up for casting on grass, and the adjacent waters where the Calcasieu River flows into Lake Charles are available for casting over water. Housing was primarily through the nearby Isle of Capri Hotel and Casino. The exquisite Boardroom of the Isle of Capri, an unparalleled venue for written exams and presentations, also served as the site for the mandatory workshop and written portion of the exams. But unfortunately, the extremely high winds and scattered rain rendered the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau site unusable, and the performance exams were moved to the side yard of the enormous Trinity Baptist Church on Country Club Drive. This proved to be a most worthy testing area, with plenty of grassy areas sheltered from the winds by a dense row of trees. Because of the rain, there was a moment when it appeared that we might have to move



## The Test *continued...*

the testing indoors to the basketball court, but fortunately the wind abated and the rain decreased long enough for us to conduct all of the testing outdoors during the three-day event.

But back to my test. The lead examiner had welcomed me warmly and had introduced the event by saying that he, and the other two gentlemen, actually would be rooting for me and hoping that I would pass. They were, in fact, hoping that everyone at the event would pass. It makes their job a lot easier, adds to the number of qualified casting instructors in the world, and lets them off the hook for having to feel like a tough guy by telling someone that they failed. But they had also been quite clear about the fact that, once the exam starts, they could not and would not coach me in any way, and they would only ask me to repeat something if they had a good reason. And now I had given them that reason. I swallowed. They were all still smiling, so I took that as a good sign. I tried to relax and started over.

Tasks two and three were a lot easier. I had no trouble demonstrating a wide loop on the forward cast when asked to do so, and I was able to demonstrate a tailing loop and explain how these are formed. So far so good. Tasks four and five, the reach casts to the right and left (with and without slipping line), also went well, although the line did not land as straight or as close to the target as I would have preferred, and there seemed to be a little slack in the line on task five. I thought I had passed them, but could one or both of these be scored as “borderline”? We all know that two borderline scores add up to one fail, and you are only allowed a total of two fails out of the first 15 tasks. I was not sure. And the examiners took their time, slowly writing down comments after every demonstration, adding to my sense of unease. The waiting while they wrote down comments was the hardest part. Tasks 6 (vertical to horizontal casting) and 7 (slack



*L to R: MCI / examiner and event organizer Jeff Ferguson, successful CI candidate Jeffrey Graham, and MCI / examiner Dave Barron, posing in front of the church’s “Gumbo Gator” statue after the test.*

line casts) are relatively easy, and I was able to relax more and enjoy them, and Task 8 (demonstrating distinctly different slow, medium, and fast casts) has usually come easily to me, so these were not a problem. The roll casts – tasks 9 through 11 – did not go well, but again I thought maybe I had passed them, if not demonstrating the perfect form I had hoped for.

## The Test *continued...*

But was there another borderline score lurking among them? I just wasn't sure. And then it was time for the accuracy portion of the test. And now I will share a secret with you: Despite years of practice, my accuracy is terrible. I can nearly always get the distance right, but the last couple of feet of leader and the fly seem to have a mind of their own, and on any given day my target casting can be good, or bad, or somewhere in between. That spring it seemed like Jupiter had finally aligned with Mars, and I was becoming far more consistent, and sure enough on testing day the planets were in my favor. The 20-foot cast using my right hand was not just on target, the yarn fly actually landed inside the small orange soccer cone. On the 30-foot cast, it did exactly the same thing. I wanted to cheer and whoop and holler, and I had to work to act as though that happens all the time, when in truth I had never done that before, not even on my best day. I could see, or perhaps feel, the examiners relaxing in the certainty that "he's got this," and their relaxing in turn helped me to relax. The 45-foot cast did not land inside the cone, but it was certainly close enough, and I felt an enormous relief. And now to do the same thing casting over my off-shoulder . . . Well, almost the same thing. I've always suspected that it was not a coincidence that off-shoulder accuracy is the 13th task. On this day, the fly did not land within the cone, but it was at least well within the defined 30-inch target zone.

The remaining two tasks were the distance casts, demonstrating the double haul (Task 14) and then using it to cast to 75 feet (Task 15). The double hauls went fine, but the distance cast did not. Whether it was nerves, or lack of concentration, or trying too hard, or not trying hard enough, I did not cast beyond 75 feet. I reached it a couple of times, barely, but I did not exceed it. It was not the wind; the examiners even allowed me to change directions, casting from the 75-foot cone back to the former starting point. And it was not the

light rain that had begun to fall. I just was not up to the task that day. Which was frustrating, as in the days leading up to the test I was easily reaching 80 and 85 feet. On this day I hit 75, but I did not surpass it. There was no way that this was a clean pass, and I knew I had to factor in a fail. That left very little wiggle room among the previous scores, and I began to wonder just how many borderline scores I might have picked up, and also how to explain to my wife and my friends that I had just spent a lot of time and money to travel to Louisiana for a weekend at a casino.

The lead examiner announced that we were going to take a break now, and we did. It was only for a few minutes, but it seemed like hours to me as I waited while the examiners conferred and discussed my performance. And then finally my lead examiner said "Are you ready to do the teaching part now?" I could have kissed him. They would not ask me to go through the teaching part of the exam if I had failed to pass the 15 casting performance tasks; that would have been a waste of their time as well as mine. I was in the clear, and my spirits started to soar. I have taught classes of students at different educational levels nearly all of my professional career, so teaching comes easily to me and is something that I thoroughly enjoy. And I knew the material well. I had no doubt that I would be in good shape if I could just get to the teaching part, and now I had. The borderline scores must not have been too many.

After the teaching part of the test, the examiners conferred again, after which the lead examiner walked up to me and said "Well, I have good news and bad news," and he did his best to look serious and contemplative, perhaps even troubled. But by now I knew things were OK, and as if to confirm it the two MCIs behind him could not repress their smiles.

## The Test *continued...*

I had passed. I was an FFI Certified Casting Instructor. The sky cleared and the sun came out. I headed home.

Ironically, that was the last testing event held in North America that year. Nine days later, COVID-19 shutdowns changed everything. The annual summer FFI conclave in Montana had to be cancelled, as did all other planned testing events. I don't think there is a lesson here; nobody could have predicted the world shutting down due to a virus. But maybe there is a message here to CI students everywhere. Just get it done. It's not that hard, it does not take that long, and the world needs more casting instructors. I hope I can live up to the expectations I have set for myself. My role models have certainly been exemplary.

The event itself was capped off by a wonderful Saturday afternoon fish fry at the beautiful home of Jeff and Lisa Ferguson. Fried fish, French fries, brownies, and plenty of cold beer and warm southern hospitality on a veranda overlooking the bayou made for a perfect ending to an exhausting but ultimately very rewarding weekend.

These events cannot be held without a tremendous amount of time and help provided by many people. I know that the Contraband Fly Casters and the FFI Gulf Coast Council contributed a lot of financial support, and that the many examiners who administered the tests travelled to Lake Charles at their own expense to take part in the event, which is a serious commitment. I am grateful to all of them, but in particular I would like to thank Keith Richard, Dave Barron, Dino Frangos, Jeff Ferguson, and Jonathan Walter.



**Jody Martin, CI**, is Associate Vice President for Research and Curator of Crustacea at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The author of *The Spirituality of Fly Fishing (2016)*, he teaches classes and hosts fly fishing retreats based on his book in California and Pennsylvania. His writing appears in *TROUT, Southwest Fly Fishing, American Fly Fishing, Strung, California Fly Fisher, The American Fly Fisher*, and elsewhere. Jody is the Casting Director for the Southwest Council of FFI and a member of Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, where he also serves as a volunteer for *Casting for Recovery* and *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing*.

## NEW REGISTERED INSTRUCTORS

*Newly Certified Instructors listed according to test date.*

First Name	Last Name	Home City	State	Country	Test Date	Certifications
Colin	Townsend	Fort Myers	FL	United States	04/17/21	CI
George	Sylvestre	Weston	MA	United States	09/27/20	CI
Stan	Moore	Larbert	FAL	United Kingdom	12/05/20	CI

For incoming test date and other CICP events information, please visit:  
<http://flyfishersinternational.org/Casting/CalendarofEvents/tabid/616/Default.aspx>

### **BECOMING A CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR**

If you decide to pursue certification it is recommend that you review all the material on our website, as well as find an MCI or THMCI who can mentor you through the process. The chance for success of passing the examinations is much greater for those who find a mentor. You can find an instructor/mentor in your area by clicking here.

#### ***Objectives of the Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP):***

The CICP Program's main objectives are to educate and enhance the growth of fly casting instructors by:

- Establishing high and consistent standards for casting instructors.
- Administering a test that fairly and consistently assesses the

candidate's knowledge of casting, teaching ability, and casting proficiency.

- Conducting teaching workshops as a required part of certification.
- Conducting clinics on how to teach fly casting at FFI shows, fairs, and consumer fishing demonstrations.
- Developing and maintaining an instruction reference for certified instructors.
- Establishing and maintaining communication networks for certified instructors.
- Facilitating the exchange of ideas between instructors worldwide.

Good luck with your journey to become a certified instructor.

## The Editorial Team



**Jim Wigington, MCI**, Editor-in-Chief, Redding, California USA. Jim is a retired research hydrologist who spent his career evaluating the effects of human activities on watersheds and streams. He has published in many scientific journals and previously was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association. Currently, Jim is an active casting instructor and L-1 examiner.



**Mac Brown, MCI**, is the owner of Mac Brown Fly Fish and Fly Fishing Guide School in Bryson City, NC. He is the author of Casting Angles and contributor to numerous magazine articles. Mac will serve as a technical advisor for the Loop. He enjoys adventure travel with his family when not teaching fly fishing techniques.



**Peter Morse MCI** is a professional Australian fly fisherman of many years who fishes in all waters for all species without prejudice. He is the author of countless magazine stories and 3 books, as well being a television presenter and script writer.



**Bruce Richards, MCI**, Montana, USA, designed many great lines for Scientific Anglers and wrote the seminal work, Modern Fly Lines. He is a former chair of CBOG and was instrumental in the development of the Casting Instructors' Certification Program (CICP).



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