

Jottings from Jan



Fishing for Answers

Yesterday, I attended a seven-hour national fishing seminar, entitled *George Poveromo's Salt-water Strategies and Tactics*, a subject more unfamiliar to me than any foreign language. A vocabulary set, including terms and acronyms, such as knocker-rig, pilchard, cedar plug and CHIRP, spewed from the mouths of renowned angling authorities. Somewhat frantically, I took copious notes, trying to keep pace with the amount of new information being thrown at me.

This professional presentation was broken down into 30-minute chunks, each delivered by a varied panel of enthusiastic experts, using television-quality videos to demonstrate techniques and equipment. Every speaker on the stage optimized his or her voice projection with state-of-the-art amplifiers. Between segments, prizes were given away, constantly bolstering the enthusiasm of the hundreds gathered in this huge auditorium. Learning conditions were exemplary.

So, how did I fare as a voluntary student in this unfamiliar milieu? By 2:15, I was squirmier than any fish under discussion. During an in-depth discussion of the Cubera snapper, I counted the number of bald men sitting in the rows in front of me. Techniques for a hand-crank deep drop found me humming the catchy calypso tune of *Under the Sea* under my breath. Do you get my drift?

As talented teachers, we can present our subject material to students, using every motivational technique ever designed; however, we recognize that our students can only absorb and assimilate so much new information at a time before their attention starts to wander. Yet, we must adhere to strict schedules to present a demanding curriculum.

A recent NPR article, <<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/01/10/459372410/a-no-nonsense-classroom-where-teachers-dont-say-please>>, discussed a "no-nonsense nurturing" approach to teaching, introduced by Kristyn Klei Borrero, in which teachers read from scripted directions, eliminating polite additions, like the word "please," from classroom commands. Minimal praise and robotic delivery is said to result in a more disciplined classroom, allowing for maximum instructional time.

Reflecting on yesterday's learning experience, I have come to the conclusion that I retain more information in a comfortable, friendly environment than in a highly-structured, impersonal situation. The details that I find most memorable are the ones delivered with personality and a sense of humor. Captain Lee Lavery, the only woman to speak at the conference, divulged her secret recipe for making sand chum balls to lure the yellowtail snapper: she adds gold and green glitter to the mix. I laughed out loud and immediately committed this tip to memory. Captain George Poveromo brought his adventures alive by sharing personal photos of big-game-fish conquests. Even I experienced a bit of marlin envy!

As a teacher, who has not spent an entire day in a lecture situation in a while, I enjoy being reminded of the ways I learn best. When I read about "novel" approaches, such as those proposed by Klei Borrero, I rejoice in the fact that now I can be a voluntary student. Let me leave you with one question: Would you choose to be a student in your own classroom?

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

<http://dkgpaalphanu.weebly.com/membership-application.html>

Joyce Bigley will be accepting applications for new members at our March meeting. Please work with your nominee to completely fill out the application, found on our website. You may hand this to Joyce in person or mail it to her. Voting will take place in May.

On Saturday, March 12th, Queen

Victoria will be joining us after lunch.

Checklist

Here are some items you may want to remember to bring to our March meeting (pick and choose!):

Write-Read-Write books

Blanket and/or children's books for Book & Blankie project

Clothing for Suited for Success (laundered and on hangers, if possible)

Food Pantry donation

Name tag and pins

Remember that spring hats will soon be featured in stores and thrift shops. Our 60th celebration will be here before we know it and you may want to sport a birthday bonnet!



Thank you...

to our March hostesses and greeters: Marge Buzogany, Karen Fisher, Linda Scammell and Paula White. Marge will be sharing her "thought for the day."

Three cheers for those of us planning to attend the state convention at the Nittany Lion Inn on June 10-12, 2016. State officers have already begun preparations to honor Alpha Nu at a celebratory birthday luncheon on Saturday. Please consider joining the festivities!

ACCEPT THE PROFILE PREMIERE CHALLENGE! In order to keep the DKG-member database up to date, the International Communications and Publicity Committee has challenged all members to create a profile in the "My DKG" segment of dkg.org. Here is how I updated mine:

1. I watched a video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn7-26BpWB8&feature=youtu.be>
2. To sign in, I went to: www.dkg.org.
3. After clicking "Sign In," I used my membership number as my username and wrote in my password. If this is your first time in this site, please email me (janobanion@gmail.com) for the default password, then you can change it.
4. Next, I clicked on MyDKG, then My Account.
5. I worked my way through the tabs: About Me, My Participation, My Communities, Member Directory.
6. In less than one hour, I met the challenge!!!
7. If you need help, just ask.

