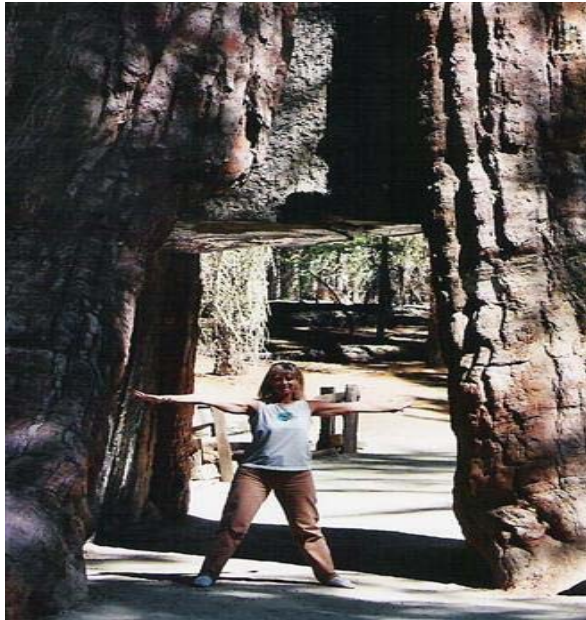


TAYLOR'S TIPS for a productive writing career...



Dear Fellow Writer,

Hummingbirds abound in my California backyard, flitting from one bush to the next for a taste of something sweet, or swooping in to snatch up a bug flying in a swarm near the screen door. I marvel at these tiny, beautiful creatures and their ability to sustain themselves on what is around them. If one tree doesn't have what they need, they fly to another.

ONE DROP AT A TIME.....FILLS THE BUCKET

What about us writers? Do we hover around one tree, hoping for the nectar we need to increase our checkbook balance? Or do we try other bushes or flowers, finding a little paycheck here, maybe a slightly larger paycheck there? Like the hummingbird, we must stay in motion.

“But I want to write, not market,” a writer often laments. “Why do I have to work so hard at selling?” And still another at a writers conference said, “I didn’t think it would be so much work. I’ve had my novel written for years and can’t get it sold.”

Often, we keep going back to the same tree, or the same bush. Maybe we’re trying to sell that same novel for the past five years. Maybe we keep sending out the same short

essay over and over without changing it, updating it, focusing it toward the market where we are submitting. Our challenge as writers is not just to write—but to write well. And after that, our second challenge is to submit—over and over and over again. Don't ever stop. If you are writing a book or have finished one, consider writing a few shorts (stories, essays, personal experiences) and find markets where you can submit them. You will hone your writing so that you can write succinctly, and you will establish some publication credits while you are shopping that novel around. Editors love published authors (become one).

Stretch yourself, like me in the photo at Yosemite between the giant Redwood trees. Reach beyond your comfort zone. Look up opportunities in *The Writer's Market* and set a goal to submit at least three pieces in the next three months to three different places. Attend a one-day writers conference and learn even more about your craft. Network with editors and agents and other writers at writing events. At my first few conferences I connected with editors who asked me to submit my work, ultimately leading to publication in *Light and Life* magazine, *The Christian Communicator*, and *Writer's Digest*. Become a hummingbird and fill your bucket.

What's Happening...

May 29th – I've had to adjust my self-imposed deadline to have the full proposal and sample chapters written for my nonfiction book, *Choices: Change Your Attitude, Change Your Weight*. My initial goal was May 20th, but life got in the way (too many busy things going on to even try to list here). But it's okay. I have a new goal, and I'm on schedule to meet it. Have you set a goal? Are you on track? Readjust if needed, but always, always have goals. 😊

June 24th – Last reminder: for all of you who still want to write a story for the Guideposts contest. June 24 is the deadline date. Winning that contest in 2004 changed my writing life. It could change yours, too. They bring fifteen writers up to Rye, New York and teach them all about inspirational writing. The guidelines are on the website. www.guidepostsmag.com/writers-workshop/

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Author of :

“The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work”

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