

*The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.*

*William Wordsworth, British Poet Laureate, 1770-1850*

**Happy Birthday Minnesota**

**To celebrate Minnesota's 150th birthday...**

you will find the new 42¢ commemorative stamp attached (at right). Our goal is to include "something special" with every issue of PARTICULARS. We hope you will send a card or letter to "someone special" using this stamp. The stamp is attached using a "glue dot" with easy release adhesive.

On May 17, 2008, the Postal Service™ issued this 42¢ commemorative stamp, Minnesota Statehood. The ceremony was held on the grounds of the Capitol during the Sesquicentennial Festival. The Postal Service commemorates the 150th year of Minnesota's statehood. The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland, and features a photograph by Richard Hamilton Smith of Park Rapids, Minnesota. The photograph shows a view northwest of the city of Winona. The view shows the foreground of MN-34/WI-54 bridge spanning the main channel of the Mississippi. The islands above the bridge are part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which extends 261 miles along the Mississippi from Wabasha, MN to Rock Island, IL.



**The bad news is time flies. The good news is you are the pilot.**

Michael Altshuler

**Guilt-free trash in the eco-age**

It's getting easier to find products of all kinds that will decompose without polluting the soil or adding to landfills. Here are a few that are worth noting:

- 1. Golf balls.** So that you won't actually be littering when your ball goes into a lake or off a cliff, Eco Golf Balls ([ecogolfballs.com](http://ecogolfballs.com)) eventually break down into carbon dioxide and water.
- 2. Cups, napkins, cutlery and plates.** All kinds of food containers and servers that are made from corn, sugar cane or recycled paper can be found at websites such as [biodegradablestore.com](http://biodegradablestore.com).
- 3. Garbage bags.** BioBags ([biobagusa.com](http://biobagusa.com)) for the lawn (which decompose after 12 days) and the kitchen (best used for food waste and paper) are made from renewable resources.
- 4. Coffins.** The Ecopod ([ecopod.co.uk](http://ecopod.co.uk)) is made out of 100% recycled paper and will break down slowly over time...ahem...as you do.

Natalie Ermann Russell, USA Weekend

**If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there would be a shortage of fishing poles.**

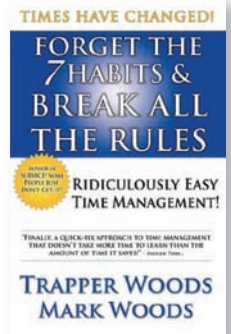
Doug Larson

**Times have changed!**

*So should your rules for time management.*

Without discounting the ideas presented in other books, Trapper Woods and Mark Woods look at time management in a lighter, less complicated way. They strike a balance by providing some structure but not too much. Their approach does not make you feel as though you have to live each day like a robot. It's ridiculously easy time management! Chapter list includes:

1. Activities Rule! Not The Clock, Don't be a Slave To Time
  2. Color Your Choices, The Art of Choosing and Refusing
  3. Carry Your Time In Buckets, Fine Tune Your Tools
  4. Arrange Your Plate, Think Inside The Box
  5. Don't Just Execute, Flexicute, Learn To Turn On A Dime
  6. The Hocus Pocus of Focus, Make Time Wasters Disappear...and
  7. Activity Management Tips
- Paperback book, 139 pages.



If you are looking for a special way to say **THANK YOU...** call or email Carrie Hill so you can see this oversize 20" x 16" POP-UP Card. Personalize with your logo and message!

**Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.**

Aristotle, Greek Philosopher

**Welcome back, Natalie Michaels**

**Natalie Michaels** joined PAR/PRINTMEDIA in early March, but then took leave for the birth of her daughter, **Madeline**, on April 18, 2008. Natalie just returned to her job as Administrative Assistant/CSR. She will be working Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Natalie grew up in Mound, MN; earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Ed from Bethel University in St. Paul, MN; and a masters degree from Webster University in Kansas City, MO.

Natalie and her **husband, Matt**, recently moved back to the metro area from Kansas City, MO. They just purchased a home in Wayzata, MN and will be moving in July.



**We get the nicest emails**



*I love the overall color, flame colors are outstanding, design, layout is perfect for maximum effect—yes, everything! Thanks so much, Phyllis, everything you touch turns to gold, make that platinum.*

**Lucette Wildt, Director of Giving, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN**

*Thank you for your ongoing excellence!*

**Patty Moss, Designer, Nestle HealthCare Nutrition, Inc.**

*I would like you to know that I much appreciate receiving your PARTICULARS—very informative, humorous and great quotes! Your company definitely sets high standards for itself...and lives by them. Thank you.*

**Elaine O-Leary, Old Town Company, Purchasing, Old Town, ME**

◀ *We received all of the dealer awards and the two new Crystal D ones are absolutely beautiful! Thank you for all your hard work on this project.*

**Denae Larson, Crystal Cabinet Works, Inc., Princeton, MN**

*Thank the PAR team for the prototypes. They were excellent and on time. The boxes are a HUGE hit—from Watercraft Sr. Management Team to our #1 account in North America to our biggest accounts in the UK.*

**Chris Heffernan, Marketing, Johnson Outdoors/Lendal, Ferndale, WA**

*I appreciate all the help you have given me and meeting the “rush” deadlines. You have done a great job. Thanks again!*

**Gay-Rose Johnson, Executive Assistant, Delta Consultants, St. Paul, MN**

**In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different.**

Coco Chanel

**Understanding geeks**

Techies have their own colorful jargon, often undecipherable to outsiders. Here are some terms to listen for—and hope they are not directed your way.

**Caching error:** An all-purpose explanation for a tech-support problem with no obvious cause.

**Completion date:** To a developer, the date something is ready to test—not, as you might have thought, ready to launch.

**Empire builder.** An insecure IT administrator or engineer who tries to make himself indispensable by keeping code, passwords, or other knowledge of a system to himself. Bad for morale; bad for your business.

**Geek.** Someone with an intense curiosity about a specific subject. Not limited to tech—there are also gaming geeks, music geeks, etc.

**Hardware problem:** A problem your programmers want nothing to do with.

**HKI error:** Human-keyboard-interface error (i.e., it’s your fault, stupid).

**ID10T (pronounced Eye-dee-ten-tee):** The user is an idiot. Used in tech support when passing along said idiot to some other sucker to deal with: “I’ve got an I-D-ten-T coming your way.”

**I/O error:** Ignorant-operator error. Derived from the term “input/output error.”

**Known issue:** As in, “That’s a known issue.” In other words, you’re the 4,000th person who has called about this problem in the past week—and no, we have not fixed it.

**PEBCAK:** Problem exists between chair and keyboard (i.e., it’s your fault, stupid).

**PICNIC:** Problem in chair, not in computer.

**Nerd:** Some technologists self-identify as nerds; others find the term insulting. When in doubt, use geek instead.

From INC. Magazine, Understanding Geeks, A Field Guide To Your Tech Staff.

(Geek, by the way, is no longer an insult— it is an honorific.)



**We’re all trying to make a big difference, not realizing the small difference we make for each other every day.**

Daphne Rose Kingma

**The really important things in life**

*“Fishing is ONE of the really great things in life,” states Phil Dennis. Whether it is the season opener, escaping to Canada, or trolling a local lake, Phil finds time to fish. Fishing really is the perfect recreational sport for someone who runs a business.*

*“For some, running a business is like fishing with a cane pole beneath the shade of an old willow tree: enough success to keep them fed and coming back; more joy and peace than most people will ever know. For others, running a business means stepping into a boat and heading off shore. More investment in gear, more territory to work, but still drawn by passion and rewarded in direct proportion to the effort extended. One needs to know the market’s need and respond to it with enticing products and services. However, the marketing metaphor starts breaking down when one starts talking about ‘serving’ customers and ‘serving’ fish,” writes Harvey King at nfib.com (National Federation of Independent Business).*

*Phil continues to invest time, energy, and passion into the combined businesses of PAR/PrintMedia, yet still finds time to fish. He serves as a healthy example that we all must work and play with energy and passion.*

Random notes, Phyllis Rivard

