

By Jeff “Chief” Urbaniak
COLUMNIST (www.AdviceChief.com)

If you are looking to move up in the world, get ahead in your career, become a boss, or maybe even be a CEO someday, then the practice of adding one big new thing to your life each year can reap you great personal and professional benefits.

What’s a big new thing? Something like a new hobby, a new recreational activity, a new skill, or maybe even a new habit.

Jason Hawkins, a successful sales manager for a car dealership in Ohio, decided to take up the hobby of collecting and caring for exotic fish and snakes. This new hobby forced him to learn a lot about these species, what they need to eat, environments they need to survive and thrive in, and their social behavior, etc. Much of what he learns--the wisdom he gains--while engaged in this hobby can be applied to other scenarios in his life and career.

Michael O’Malley, Ph.D., a mentor

Add one big new thing to your life

of mine, took up bee keeping as a nice hobby to share with his 10-year-old son. But as he started to observe these industrious insects, he noticed that they do a lot more than just make honey. Bees not only work together to achieve a common goal but, in the process, create a highly coordinated, efficient, and remarkably productive organization. The hive behaves like a miniature but incredibly successful business. He shared the lessons he learned from this hobby with clients and reading audiences around the world.

If you want to move up in the world or in life, it helps to be broad-gauged, widely read, and have many diverse interests. You should try to see solutions to problems in the ways of other cultures, nature, music, or anything else that emits intelligence or deep communication.

Another mentor of mine, consultant Jeffrey Fox, told up-and-coming CEOs that they should make a list of all the

things they want to accomplish within 10 years and to not omit anything for any reason. He suggested to include things like learning a foreign language, Chinese cooking, or photography, or writing a book, raising orchids, breeding canaries, or even learning to play “Blueberry Hill” on the piano.

When you say you are too old to learn something new or feel you are “all set,” you are saying you don’t have the capacity to grow, expand, or run an enterprise. If you don’t have the time to do something new, how will you ever get the time to handle a bigger job with twice the responsibility?

Adding one new big permanent facet to your life will prepare you to become a more dynamic person at home and at work. You and everyone you associate with will benefit from your newfound wisdom.

~ The End ~