



I moved my tripod, I focused on the subject and just about the time I was pressing the shutter, he flew away. Then, here comes another, just as interesting as the first, he is posing, so I reposition the camera, ready, aim . . . and he fly's away. So I wait, and sure enough, another Dragonfly is hovering within three feet of me. He lands, I take the photo, but it was not a keeper. Over and over this evening, the same story. I must have taken twenty shots and none were very good. Now, it was not that there were no other subjects to photograph; I was at the Aldridge Botanical Gardens and seemingly hundreds of things were screaming, "Take my picture"; but, I am too stubborn to quit. I said to myself, I am not leaving without a photo of these Dragonflies.

My persistence paid off. While, these may not be the best photos I have ever taken, I am proud of them. Why? Because I believe you are always more proud of the things you have to work for. When we put extra effort into something, when we go that extra mile, we remember it more. And most of the time the people around us can tell when we really want to do a good job.

Why just go through the motions? Why waste your time doing things half-heartedly? Let's put our heart and soul into our daily activities and into the lives of the people around us.

Let's be where we are. Think about that sentence. . . . Let's be where we are. Many times where we are physically and where we are mentally are not the same place. If someone comes to talk to you, stop "multi-tasking" and give them you full attention. You might be surprised, what you have been missing.

A second lesson from my Dragonflies: If at first you do not succeed . . . (you know how it ends). Don't be discouraged when you don't immediately succeed. Do not stop. Keep on going. Allow your "failures" to motivate you to try something different. Again, you might be surprised by how excellent it turns out, or by how close you really were to succeeding.

Something to think about:

- A failure is not someone who has tried and failed; it is someone who has given up trying and resigned himself to failure; it is not a condition, but an attitude.
- Failure is not the worst thing in the world. The worst is not to try.
- Great accomplishments are often attempted but only occasionally reached. Those who reach them are usually those who missed many times before. Failures are only temporary tests to prepare us for permanent triumphs.
- The person who succeeds is not the one who holds back, fearing failure, nor the one who never fails . . . but rather the one who moves on in spite of failure.
- Fall seven times, stand up eight. - JAPANESE PROVERB

Your stubborn buddy

Rickey Moore