



### **Focus on the Future**

#### **Guest Predictions: Philip Rekitzke**

*Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions a set of questions that affect us all.*

#### **Philip A. Rekitzke - River & Trail Outfitters, near Historic Harpers Ferry, WV**

*I grew up in Seaford, Delaware and went on to graduate from Shepherd University with a degree in Commercial Recreation & Tourism. Growing up, my family was intent on taking vacations periodically and I believe that is where I developed my passion for the tourism industry. I've lived and worked in some extraordinary places including St. Thomas US Virgin Islands, Lake Tahoe, and Historic Harpers Ferry. My wife and our 1 1/2 year old son continue the family tradition of vacationing.*

**Q: What changes in your professional environment in the past 3-5 years have you found to be the most beneficial?**

**A:** The privilege of extra-ordinary hands-on experiences in unusual places, that many young professionals might have to wait a lifetime to encounter...if ever. At River & Trail Outfitters I currently have the opportunity of dealing with literally thousands of individuals and influence the quality of their vacation experience.

**Q: What changes have been the most troubling to you?**

**A:** The economy has had an unfortunate impact on so many. I have had to hold faith that working hard and focusing on what I have a passion to do will result in benefit to those closest to me over time.

**Q: How will globalization affect your professional area in the near term?**

**A:** The American tourism industry clearly has a growing percentage of guests coming to us from all over the world. My team and I are constantly amazed by the diversity of our visitors

**Q: What significant challenges might be anticipated in your professional area in the next few years?**

**A:** Constantly evolving media is creating new demands on people's time. Constantly evolving technology challenges us to be on the cutting edge of the leisure experience, but this is being dwarfed by rapidly emerging competition in the eco-tourism field.

**Q: What are the greatest challenges confronting young professionals in Western culture today?**

**A:** I am concerned that the fast pace of the world is having a negative impact on our ability to make personal impressions that are fresh, new and valuable to a network we hope will remain more than just a series of brief contacts.