

7 Questions
with ...

Brenda Fishbaugh

President, Eye Pro

Last spring, the Fishbaugh's attended the graduation of their goddaughter, Rachel Simon, from Furman University in Greenville, SC.



1. How did you get into the tanning industry?

I was at dinner with friends and they were trying to get me to leave the corporate world and work at one of their dozen companies. When they told me about Wink-Ease, I thought it was perfect. They made me president, gave me stock in the company, and that was 27 years ago.

2. What do you like most about your job?

First, I love the tanning industry. Secondly, I love the variety. I work on patents, international business, trade shows, social media, creating memes and contests, writing a column for *IST Magazine*, and I work with great tanning product distributors and individual salons worldwide. Jackie DeWald, my right-hand woman for over two decades, does all the heavy lifting and I get to do the fun stuff.

3. When you were a kid, what did you want to grow up to be?

I wanted to work with tigers and endangered animals. I've been so fortunate to get to help many endangered wildlife causes and I've even helped raise tiger and leopard cubs.

4. What's your biggest "pet peeve?"

I try not to have pet peeves, as it seems immature to react. However, if someone trash-talks indoor tanning, I do go crazy! And I don't understand why so many tanners don't wear eye protection when they tan. It's just so important! I will lose my cool over tanning salon staff who don't wear eyewear.

5. What would you sing at Karaoke night?

None of us wants me to sing – even my shower cringes! But, here's a little secret – Jerry Deveney and I do great harmonies on "Bye, Bye, Miss American Pie."

6. Necessities aside, what one thing could you not go a day without?

I am addicted to my phone. And my laptop. And Photoshop. And flowers. And my amazing husband of 40+ years, Steve.

7. If you were a super-hero, what power would you have?

I feel like a super-hero! A great job, a great husband, lots of travel, great business friends, a rich personal life and a fun photography hobby. I am very blessed. ■