

# Field Trip: Camping, Blogging, Twittering, Vlogging!

☒ My husband and I are away this weekend attending blogging camp. No, we're not at a logging camp, we're at blogging camp. If you remember, hubby and I both launched blogs in July (you're reading mine right now,) so we're newbies trying to learn more and meet others who are blogging. My passion is taking interesting ideas from other worlds and applying them to mine. Here are a few things I'm taking away:

- I just joined Twitter. This means I can communicate with others and they know what I'm doing and I can find out what they are doing via text messages. As I explore this more I'll write about it. I'd like to use Twitter at MGMA in San Diego in October. **If anyone out there is going to MGMA and using Twitter, please get in touch with me by leaving a comment, or emailing me at [marypatwhaley@gmail.com](mailto:marypatwhaley@gmail.com).**
- Some who know me will say I am obsessed with toilet paper dispensers and hand towel dispensers and they would be correct. My theory is: If you're not paying attention to the tissue and hand towel dispensers (the little things) in your practice, you probably aren't paying attention to the big things. More on this topic later as I am building out a new site for my practice and will write about making design and fixture choices in the future. Anyway, the conference we're attending is being held at CubeSpace which is a very cool place where folks can come and use workstations and technology. The bathroom here has a very cool hand towel dispenser (picture above) that you work with your forearm! I will be checking it out for my new office.

- Backchannels are the new intranets. I am working on a knowledge management tool for my practice to help document important information that tends to be lost when staff leave the practice. I got some different ideas about accomplishing this goal from camp.
- The camp presentations were also streamed live and I learned a little about vlogging (video blogging.) The last time I thought about making an orientation video I was told it would probably cost \$10,000! With some practice, I think my staff and I can make “videos” for just about any topic. We can do video tours of our facilities for our website, we can film our meetings for absent staff, we can do narrated PowerPoint presentations.

Whew. So much technology, so much fun!