



Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

May 2003

Pathways News

This month you may have noticed that the *Pathfinder Pathways* is a little different. The mailed version is two pages long. This is the how we plan to publish future issues. We'll include a short paragraph on each of the subjects that will be in that month's issue of the Pathways. The rest of the newsletter will be on-line on the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinder website at: [Georgia-Cumberland Newsletters](#). Once you open the web page click on the *Pathways* link for the month you want to view.

Also remember that May will be the last month until September that the *Pathfinder Pathways* will be mailed out, however it will still be published on-line. If you would like to get an email notice when it has been published, send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to GCCPathways@yahoo.com

The Stranger

--Author Unknown

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind, each member had a special niche. My brother Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play 'big brother' and develop the art of

teasing. My parents were complementary instructors. Mom taught me to love the Word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger was our storyteller. He could wave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries and comedies were daily conversations. He could hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so lifelike that I would often laugh or cry as I watched. He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, bill and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even mad arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker, Dad didn't seem to mind, but sometimes Mom would quietly get up – while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places – go to her room, read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt an obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example was not allowed in our house – not from us, from our friends, or adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted.

My Dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home – not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents' den today; you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures, His name?

We always just called him TV!!!

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## Outreach Activity Ideas

The NAD website has an article on Outreach ideas called *Love by the Month*. Here's the idea for May. Plant a vegetable garden, and make a list of local nonprofit food organizations that will receive your bounty at harvest time. Schedule delivery with these groups for sometime in the summer.

The Garden Writers Association has started a program called "Plant a Row for the Hungry" (PAR), they are an organization of professional communicators in the lawn and garden industry. To learn more about the program or to find an agency go to:

[Plant a Row for the Hungry-Georgia](#)

[Plant a Row for the Hungry – Other Areas](#)

## Honor Toolbox



### Gardening [\(requirements\)](#)

There are a number of honors that are almost impossible to teach during the Pathfinder year. A couple of these are *Gardening* and *Flower Culture*. Why not send the honor requirements and some teaching hints home so that the Pathfinders can work on them during the summer. Many families have gardens during the summer and this would be a great time to earn the honor.

Most adults who garden began this hobby as children. And more than one old-timer has sworn off gardening because he hated it as a kid. Here's some ideas to start them out right.

Kids have so much competing for their attention: television, computers, sports, and a bazillion "planned" activities from library hours to birthday parties, from sleepovers to music programs. So gardening has to stand on its own. Rooting cuttings in water doesn't cut it. But what does?

If you want your child to love gardening, here are some things you can do.

- Show them how much you love gardening just by reveling in your own garden every day.
- Surround them with great gardens. That doesn't mean a show place. It may mean a messy, riotously colored cottage garden; decorative little getaway; or profuse potsful. (Remember that everything is bigger through kids' eyes.)

- Take the children to a local botanical garden. Many of them have kid's gardens.
- Give them good gardening experiences. These will be great memories in years to come.
- The balance is to teach respect and enjoyment of the family gardens and make sure there's a garden a kid can call his or her own. Here dirt and water are the stuff of magic, and surprises lurk between rows. Anyone can succeed under the sun. "I did it myself" is a powerful thing.
- Recognize that kids' gardening priorities are different, well, practically opposite of adults'.
- Let kids choose what to plant. Offer guidance and make sure there are some sure-success plants among their picks. But if they want beets, roses, and petunias, why not?
- Relax your standards. Crooked rows or weeds as pets are fine.
- Transplanting is fun, even if your child plays with plants the way they move action figures or Barbies about. But remind them that plants' roots need some time to grow in one place.
- Leave room for good old-fashioned digging. Holes are a highly popular landscape feature. Look for worms. Add water, and frogs appear.
- Paint rocks with the names of the vegetables and use as row markers.
- Model the message that some insects are beneficial, and even destructive bugs are highly interesting.
- For younger kids it may be necessary to do behind-the-scenes maintenance of kids' gardens, keeping them edged and weeded. Don't expect kids to do all the watering and pest patrol.
- Remember: One of the best things you can ever grow may be a gardener.

Depending on the ages of the young gardeners they may want to try a theme garden. You

may also want to try some of the following fun vegetables.

Cherry tomatoes  
Giant pumpkins  
Popcorn  
Easter Egg Eggplant  
Spaghetti squash



### Flower Culture (requirements)

Many of the same guidelines apply to flower gardens as vegetable gardens. One way to have fun with flowers would be to have a theme. Theme gardens are like planning a great party or getting to decorate your kids' bedrooms over each year — only gardens grow and blossom. To create a theme, you can borrow from birthday and Halloween themes or stick to the children's classics, such as Peter Rabbit (don't forget the carrots and the blue jacket) or the Wizard of Oz (poppies, yellow brick, and of course a scarecrow). Here are a few fresh ideas.

- **Outer Space.** Grow vines up a rocket fashioned of bamboo canes. Hang some hand-made stars and planets from the canes and think cosmic when it comes to plants: cosmos, of course, rocket flowers, moonflowers, moon and stars watermelon ... the sky's the limit.
- **Pocahontas' Own.** Forget the Disney version of this classic story. As a child, the real Pocahontas and her Powhatan playmates sat in scarecrow huts waiting for crows to dare to eat their 'Nothstine' or 'Golden Bantam' corn. They had face-painted ceremonial poles encircling their gardens. Passionflowers entwined their 'Mammoth' sunflowers. Of course, they grew crookneck squash and beans (similar to 'Turkey Crow'), too.
- **July Fourth.** Plan ahead for your local Fourth of July celebration, and you'll be

properly decorated. You may even have a float for the town parade if you plant your garden in a mobile little red wagon. Let red, white, and blue flowers abound.

Include a sweet alyssum border, geraniums, lobelia, cosmos, begonias, and impatiens. For the finishing touch, add American flags to the mix.

- **Alphabet Gardens.** This is just one fun idea if you have room for 26 plants. Let your youngster choose from asters to zinnias, and make signs for each plant.
- **Color theme garden** – Does your child have a favorite color? Have them do an entire flower garden with that color as their theme.

Here are a number of web sites that may give you more ideas on how to teach your kids gardening.

[Pizza Garden](#)

[Kidsgardening.com](#)

[Kid's Valley Garden](#)

[Kid's Garden at Suite 101](#)

[My First Garden](#)

[kinderGARDEN](#)

[The Great Plant Escape](#)

[Making Garden Markers](#)

[Gardening Fun For Kids](#)

[Grow a Sunflower House](#)

[Butterfly Garden](#)

[Grow a Sunflower Room](#)

[Gardening for Kids](#)



## Safety Tip

**Stay Wet and Stay Cool.** If you must hike uphill in the sunshine keep yourself soaking wet to stay cool. This is one of the best things that you can do for yourself. Whenever you are near water, make sure that you wet (actually soak) yourself down. If you hike while soaking wet - you will stay reasonably cool. Carry some extra water to wet yourself down again when your hair and clothing begins to dry (10-15 minutes). This will make a wonderful difference in how well you feel, especially at the end of the day! You'll stay fresher longer, and you will reduce your fluid, electrolyte, and energy loss significantly.



## Camping 101 – Gear Storage Tips

The year is over and for some clubs it's time to make sure that all the camping gear is put away for the summer. It will make the next year start off a lot easier if everything is organized and in good repair.

- **Stow your gear**

Use a whisk broom and/or rags to wipe off gear as you stow it. Make sure that your gear is clean before putting it away.

- **Check the cooler**

Double check that the coolers are clean and dry before storing them.

- **Make a check list**

Take inventory of your gear as you store it and note any broken gear that needs repair, missing items that need to be replenished or items that you wish you had.

- **High and dry**

Storing gear high helps keep it away from rodents and insects; keeping it dry helps avoid mildew.

- **Avoid freezing**

Any moisture in materials can cause damage from expansion when freezing; and some materials, even when dry, may crack in very cold temperatures.

- **Food smells**

Rodents are attracted to the smell of food and can quickly ruin your gear chewing through it to look for food that is no longer there. To avoid these pests, be sure to air out or wash all gear that smells of food.

- **Remove batteries**

To avoid any possibilities of corrosion, remove the batteries from any gadgets and store them separately.



## Hike of the Month

*'The journey is the destination'*

### Scenic Spur Trail

The Cherokee National Forest has two Rock Creeks, about 5 miles from each other. This trail goes to the Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area where a waterfall is located. The Scenic Spur Trail is about a 3.4-mile round-trip hike, easy, but has two stream crossings that can be quite deep. The trailhead is on TN 30 about 100 yds north of US 64.

### Rock Creek Gorge

This little known trail is in the Little Frog Wilderness of the Cherokee National Forest. It starts, however, in a well-known area. The trailhead is off an old paved road across Highway 64 from the Ocoee Whitewater Visitor's Center. The trail is 5.5 miles long but ends at an intersection with the Dry Pond Lead trail about 2 miles from the nearest road, Highway 64. Therefore you must turn left

onto the Dry Pond Lead trail to make a total 7.5 miles hiked. There is a 2.7-mile car shuttle back to where you started. The Dry Pond Lead trailhead is directly across 64 from Ocoee Powerhouse # 3. This is a wilderness trail and is overgrown in places and has several blowdowns, but the waterfall is worth the effort.

More information can be obtained from Bowater Community Relations, 5020 Highway South, Calhoun, TN 37309-5249

Information from [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#).

## Camp Cooking

### Bakepacker from Adventure Foods

Bake in a food storage bag or roasting bag. No Mess! No Clean-Up!

You will never scrub your cook-pot again! Each Bakepacker comes with a small recipe book. My favorite to make is chocolate cake, because it really surprises all my friends when I serve it.

[Adventure Foods](#)

## Computer Connection

Don't have a computer of your own but still want to look up information for Pathfinders? Check out your local public library. Libraries have computers that you can use. And unless you need to print something out, they are free. So check it out!



## Nature Nugget

### Blowing in the Wind

Mother's Day is celebrated in May and most people bring their mother some flowers. But would you bring your mother a tree branch? If there were flowers on it, you would. Would you bring your mother some

grass? If there were flowers on it, you would. How about bringing mom some cattails? If there were some flowers on the cattails, you would.

Surprise! Trees with branches have flowers. Grass has flowers. Even cattails have flowers.

We think of bees buzzing from one flower to another. The bees pick up pollen from one flower and bring it to the next. In this way, the flowers are pollinated and seeds and fruits are formed. But bees are rare in the cool days of early spring and many flowers are already blooming. How does the pollen get from one flower to another?

The wind!

Flowers that are pollinated by bees and other insects usually are large and colorful and very fragrant. Sometimes the fragrance is pleasant to our noses; sometimes it is not pleasant. Size, color, and smell attract insects.

Flowers on most trees in early spring are not large at all. They are seldom colorful and are very rarely fragrant. Billions and billions of grains of pollen are formed on each tree flower. The wind scatters the pollen for miles. If a pollen grain happens to land on the wrong flower—or a telephone pole—or up your nose—or wherever it lands—no harm is done to the flower or the telephone pole—even to your nose. Unless you're allergic to pollen, of course.

If the pollen grain happens to land at the right spot on the right flower, fruit and seeds will begin to form.

Trees and grasses that are pollinated by the wind are very numerous, as you can see. So this particular system of pollination works quite well. The flowers on grasses are so tiny, by the way, that you need a magnifying glass to see them.

You can find many different kinds of pollen blowing in the wind. To collect them you need a large, stiff piece of transparent plastic. Clean it thoroughly and rub a very thin layer of petroleum jelly on one side. Hang the sheet in woods where there are lots of birch, willow, or oak trees. Hang it in pine

woods in late spring. Leave it hanging from a pole in a field full of grass that has flower heads on tall stalks.

Leave the sheet up for an hour. When you bring it in, look at it under the low power of the microscope. You will see many different grains of pollen. Find a book that will help you to identify the pollen and spores that have been collected.

This project could be used for either the **Tree** or **Grasses** honors.

Information from *The Seasons – Activities for the schoolyard and neighborhood*.

## Enough to Raise An Eyebrow

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if he could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair ...." To which his father replied, "Yes, and they walked everywhere they went!"

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