



Pathfinder Pathways...

Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

May 2004



Carl's Garden

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after

living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWII, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened.

He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?"

The tallest and toughest looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure", with a malevolent little smile.

As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him.

Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. "Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt?" the minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head.

"Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday."

His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water.

Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, "Carl, what are you doing?"

"I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately", came the calm reply.

Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose.

This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done.

Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

"Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time." The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl.

As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl.

"What's this?" Carl asked.

"It's your stuff," the man explained. "

It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet."

"I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?"

The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease.

"I learned something from you", he said.

"I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate."

He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back."

He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say.

"That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess." And with that, he walked off down the street.

Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church.

The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden."

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: "Person needed to care for Carl's garden." The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door.

Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me," the young man said.

The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around.

As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him."

The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it.

One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, "My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday."

"Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys.

"That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?" "Carl," he replied.



Outreach Activity Ideas

The NAD website has an article on Outreach ideas called *Love by the Month*. Here's one of the ideas.

Volunteer to handle one area--such as snacks, games, or story time--for a Vacation Bible School outreach.

Camping

These Boots are Made for Walkin' (cont')



Get "boot smart" to get the footgear that's right for you.

Don't be intimidated if you don't have and can't afford a pair of super-ace Mountain Goat expedition boots. However, if you can afford decent hiking boots, you'll be more confident in off-trail situations where traction is vital, safer in inclement weather, and probably more secure with a heavy pack.

Cared for properly, good boots will last a long time—often five to ten years, depending on how hard you and the terrain are on them.

Knowing boot anatomy and available boot features are a big part of the boot buying process.

Full grain is the outermost part of the cow's hide; it is the stiffest, most waterproof type of leather. It is sometimes turned inside-out (rough-out) so the smooth, outer layer won't get nicked or scratched.

The **upper** part of the boot should have as few seams as possible. A one-piece upper is more water resistant.

A **gusset** is a thin piece of flexible leather sewn to both the tongue and the upper. It keeps out water and stones. A "bellows" tongue has wide gussets, allowing it to open further so it is easy to put on. Some boots have two "overlapping" tongues, each connected to one side.

The **back-stay** is a strip of leather sewn over the back seam. If it gets torn or chafed, it is almost impossible to replace. For that reason, it should be as narrow as possible.

A **welt** is the stitch that connects the upper sole. A Norwegian welt is double-stitched, strong and stiff. Other welts (Good-year, McKay, etc.) are not as strong but allow more flexibility.

A **rand** is a wide rubber strip protecting the stitching that holds the upper to the sole.

The **sole** has three parts: a padded "footbed" just below your foot, an "insole" below the footbed and an "outsole" on the bottom. The insole can be soft and flexible for light hiking, or it can be stiffened with a half- or full-length "shank" (sheet) of plastic or steel for added support. The sole is made of rubber (Vibram is a type of stiff hard rubber) with a "lug" pattern designed for gripping the path. Deep lugs are best for steep rugged terrain, while shallow lug patterns are lighter and more flexible.

Remarkable new advances have been made in boot design and boot materials of late. Check out the wrap-around high-carbon rubber outer soles on the new trekking boots, which also feature inner Gore-Tex (bootie liners that let your foot breathe and stay dry at the same time. And if you can only afford one pair of boots for walking the streets and the trails, there is now a whole line of "cross-over" lightweights, which work wonders in both environments. (Window) shop till you drop.

Consider the following when you're in the market for hiking boots:

- **Leather or lightweight?** Leather is strong, tough, durable and heavy. Great for serious mountaineering. Lightweights are made of plastics, nylon and other synthetics. They literally take a burden off your feet. Sturdy, flexible, and comfortable, they are perfect for hiking and most backpacking.

- **Soles.** The thicker the Vibram rubber sole and the deeper the treads or "lugs," the greater the traction but the heavier the boot. Likewise, the stiffer the "mid-sole" layer above the rubber sole, the stronger but less pliable and comfortable the boot. Day hikers don't need steel/plastic mid-soles; mountaineers do.

- **Welts.** Welts are stitching systems that join boot to sole. The better the welts, the stronger the join. Hence welts make shoes that are more water-tight, more durable, though perhaps less flexible. Lighter shoes use bonding-cement joins.

Aside from the appropriateness of the boot (you don't want technical mountaineering boots, unless of course you are a technical mountaineer) and the cost, the all-important consideration is size. Get it right. You and your hiking mates will regret it if you don't. Seek out a reputable store and an experienced salesperson to find the best fit. Wear the same socks (or inner and outer socks) you'll be wearing on the trail.

Unless you're replacing a specific size and model, exercise extreme care with mail order purchases or discount-mall shopping. There are too many variations in the human foot and body to take chances. Someone who's flat-footed and 240 pounds won't be comfortable in the same boot as someone who has a high arch and weighs 145, even though both may have size 10 feet.

Like a podiatrist, a knowledgeable salesperson will consider several measurements: heel to toe, heel to ball-of-foot, width at various spots, and overall shape. She or he will check how you walk—do your ankles roll in or out?—and ask about things like bunions and bone spurs as well as your hiking habits before recommending a boot for your foot and your needs.

Don't be surprised if you discover in the process that your left and right feet differ in size, especially when "weighted." Boots are one of the few items that are hard to rent. So the money you spend—not less than \$80 and more likely over \$125—is a long-term investment. Plunge wisely, watch for sales, and see if the salesperson will bargain.

- [Gorp](#)

What you do every day should contribute to giving your life meaning. If it doesn't, why are you doing it?

- Don Hutcheson

Hike of the Month

'The journey is the destination'

Arkaquah Trail

Length: 5.5 miles Difficulty: Hard

The trail descends along a ridge from Brasstown Bald parking lot to Track Rock Gap. There are ups and downs, some steep, along the way. The final mile has several switchbacks. Open ridge tops provide excellent views. This trail is within the Brasstown Wilderness for about 5 miles of its length. This trail not blazed.

Directions from Blairsville: Take US 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 8 miles. Turn left (east) onto Georgia 180. Go 8 miles and turn left (north) onto Georgia 180 Spur. Follow this road 3 miles to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center parking lot. Visitors should stop by the Brasstown Ranger District, or call 706-745-6928 for more information on these trails.

Seasonal Information:

Normally Open: Year-round.

Information from [Wildernet](#)

Most of the time when we think of taking a hike, we think of going off someplace in the woods, but that's just one type of hike. Here's an idea an additional type of hike.

Hare and Hounds – One or two Pathfinders act as the "hare" and mark their trail every 25 feet or so with a handful of cracked corn. After five minutes the others follow and try to catch them before they reach their destination.

Camp Cooking

Campfire Éclairs

This is a fun, easy, and somewhat messy recipe to do over the campfire. You can do different variations of pudding flavors and frostings. Add some sprinkles for fun too!

Ingredients:

- 1 8-ounce can Pillsbury crescent dinner rolls
- 2 vanilla JELL-O Brand pudding snacks
- 1 tub whipped frosting (chocolate)
- thin-tip cooking sticks
- aluminum foil
- Cooking spray

Instructions:

Cover tip of stick with aluminum foil and spray with cooking spray. Stretch one crescent roll over foil and squeeze tip to close and tighten.

Cook over campfire until golden brown turning frequently. (Crescent roll is done when it slides off the foil easily.)

Fill center of crescent roll with vanilla pudding, spread chocolate frosting on top, and enjoy!

Servings: 8

Nature Nugget

Watching Wildlife (Part 2)

Last month we talked about tips to help see wildlife. Here are a few more.

- Leave flowery-smelling soaps, creams and shampoos at home; bring the unscented kinds. To see animals you need to smell like an animal.
- Wear unobtrusive clothing and try to blend in with your surroundings.
- Get a good pair of compact binoculars and practice with them ahead of time, so you can swiftly and accurately locate your subject before it flies, crawls, or swims out of view.
- Look for areas where two habitats overlap – for instance, meadow/forest edges, stream/lake shores, talus slopes/alpine meadows, and sand dunes/coastal scrub. They provide opportunities to see animals from both habitats.
- When crossing creeks, pause to look upstream and downstream. Rushing water hides human noises, so you may be able to spot a feeding or bathing animal.

Geocaching

Finding your first Geocache

Step 1 – Research the cache

Keep in mind that distances can be deceiving. When you're using your GPS unit to find a cache, the unit only knows how close the site is as the crow flies (a direct line). You may be a mile from the cache, but there may be a river in the way, or a near-vertical climb involving 3 miles of switchbacks, or a mountain – you get the picture.

1. Buy a map of the area from your local camping store for those caches that are off a trail or too remote to drive close to. Topographical maps (which show features of the land like hills) are best, so you can get a good idea of the terrain you'll be crossing. You'll also know whether to bring your Honda Civic or rent a Land Rover.
2. For car geocaches (ones you can drive to and walk a short distance), use [MapBlast](#). Geocaching.com provides you with a link to MapBlast so you can get directions to that location. Make sure to zoom in on the location to make sure it's near a road. MapBlast can only get you so far!
3. If you have a good idea of the area, you can navigate via the GPS unit. This is best when the park is small. This is also the most challenging, and is not recommended for your first hunt.

You'll most likely need to do all three things to prepare and reach the geocache, though our experience has shown different combinations for each cache. I'd always start with one of the online map sites first to get an idea of the area, then decide on whether you need to buy a map or use what you have.

Since this is your first time, it's also ok to read the stash notes, look at a picture of the cache, or read other people's experiences finding the cache. Some may be visible from 20 feet away, while others in more trafficked areas may be buried under some rocks (or in one case, in a World War II bunker!). Getting within a mile or two of the site isn't usually too difficult – it's the last mile that'll get you every time.

Step 2 – Preparation

Preparation is key in any kind of outdoor activity, but you can never stress enough the importance of preparation and safety. Keep these tips in mind when searching for a cache:

1. Have a buddy with you! Never go off into the woods or remote locations without a partner, especially when Geocaching. We don't want you focusing on your GPS unit and walking off a cliff. It's great fun,

so think about planning a camping trip around the stash hunt with your family or friends.

2. Many of the caches are off-trail, so make sure to be aware of your surroundings. If you're concentrating on your GPS unit, look around you occasionally for holes, bears, etc.
3. Bring and drink plenty of water, and don't drink directly from a stream! For some of the more difficult trips, bring a water filtration system. You can get them at most camping stores.
4. Let someone know where you're going and when you're coming back.

Step 3 – The Hunt

Now you're ready for the hunt.

1. It should be pretty straightforward to get within a mile or so from the cache (unless it's deep off-trail). If you've done your research, follow the map more than the GPS unit (although we keep ours on the whole time). It's inevitable that you'll lose signal from overhanging trees, mountains, etc.
2. If you're using USFS roads (US Forestry service), the signs for each road can be pretty small in size. Instead of street signs, they're brown signs that have white writing running vertically. Usually they're close to the ground. Sometimes you may have to backtrack on the road to locate them.
3. It's always good to have a compass on hand if your GPS unit doesn't have one.
4. When you leave your car, mark its location as a waypoint! Sounds silly, but once you get deep into the cache hunt, it's easy to get disoriented. We've learned this from experience!
5. When you get close to the Geocache (within 300 feet, which is the length of a football field), make sure to check your GPS unit signal. Sometimes the signal will have an error between 25-200 feet. Don't concentrate as much on the arrow as the distance decreasing, as you get closer to the site.
6. For the last 30 feet, use a compass or direct your buddy in the direction of the cache. In some cases we've had good luck circling the site with the GPS unit to get a good area to search.
7. The final 30-100 feet is the hardest. It helps to think like the person who hid the cache. If there are stumps around, investigate around the base. Check for a pile of rocks. Some stashes, especially in people-trafficked areas, are pretty ingeniously hidden, so it helps to know the container they used.

Step 4 – The Find

Huzzah! You found the cache! Congratulations! Now what?

- Usually you take an item and leave an item, and enter your name and experience you had into the log book. Some people prefer to just enter their name into the log book. It's an accomplishment enough to locate the cache.
- Make sure to seal the cache and place it back where you found it. If it had some rocks covering it, please replace them. It's pretty straightforward.
- Remember that waypoint we suggested you create where your car/trail was located? Use that now to get back! You'll be glad you had it.
- When you get home, email the person who hid the cache and let them know you found it! They're always happy to know the condition of their cache and it's nice to know that people are looking for them.

Great work! After several trips to geocaches in your area, you'll be ready to place your own. Welcome to the exciting world of Geocaching!

- Geocaching.com

GeoScouting

Check out this website to see what some of the scouting clubs are doing with geocaching.

[GeoScouting](#)

Geocaching – Going to Oshkosh

Some of you may wish to include geocaching while traveling to and from the *Faith on Fire* International Camporee in Oshkosh, WI. Here are a couple of hints that may help you make sure that you are prepared.

- If you are looking for traditional caches, remember to take items with you to leave in the caches that you find. You may want to have something that represents the Camporee. Remember the phrase that if you "Take Something, Leave Something".
- Make sure to get the coordinates and directions for the caches that you want to look for BEFORE you leave. You might not have access to a computer on the way.

- Program the coordinates into your GPS ahead of time to save trying to do it at the last minute.
- Make sure that you know how to reset your GPS unit to a new location. If you are more than 1000 miles from your home, your GPS unit will still look for your home satellites. Most GPS units have a quick way to reset it and have it look for a new location. Otherwise it may appear not to work.

End of Year

The end of the year is here and while most of you just want to throw everything into your storage and forget it until next year. Now is a great time to get everything organized for next year, and it will make the Pathfinder year start up go much smoother. Here are a few items to start you off:

- Put away gear in an organized manner.
- To avoid any possibilities of corrosion, remove the batteries from any gadgets and store them separately.
- 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.
- Put together a notebook with instruction manuals, warranties and copies of receipts for all of the club's equipment. Get a 3-ring notebook and some plastic sleeves in it. As you get new equipment just slide them in the plastic sleeves. That way you won't have to worry about what size the pages are or what file folder you placed it in. Everything will be in one place for you and for future staff.

Director's Direction

Plan a few summer Pathfinder activities. Remember that not all Pathfinders are able to attend summer camp and would appreciate a couple of activities. This would also be a good time to try to include more parents. Maybe they'd even want to become staff when the new Pathfinder year starts up. Here are a few ideas:

- Miniature golf
- Swimming
- Work on a couple of honors.
- Have a water skiing campout. Earn the water skiing honor.

- Have a campout for the children that were in 4th grade last year and will be able to join Pathfinders when the year starts up. You may even want to include the previous Friend unit. That way they get to be the experienced Pathfinders, instead of the newest members of the club.

Honor Toolbox

Antelope

This is an East Africa Division honor. But you can even earn the antelope honor in the US. To earn the Advanced Antelope honor you will need to take a field trip to Africa.

While it is possible to use photographs to do the identification requirements for this honor, consider taking your unit or club to the zoo and have them identify the antelopes there. This would make a great summer club activity. Make sure to have done your research before you go. If possible find out what antelopes are at the zoo and put together pictures of them ahead of time so that the Pathfinders

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

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