



Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

April 2005

Laws of Nature



I remembered one morning when I discovered a cocoon in the bark of a tree, just as the butterfly was making a hole in its case and preparing to come out. I waited a while, but it was too long appearing and I was impatient. I bent over it and breathed on it to warm it. I warmed it as quickly as I could and the miracle began to happen before my eyes, faster than life. The case opened, the butterfly started slowly crawling out and I shall never forget my horror when I saw how its wings were folded back and crumpled; the wretched butterfly tried with its whole trembling body to unfold them. Bending over it, I tried to help it with my breath. In vain. It needed to be hatched out patiently and the unfolding wings should be a gradual process in the sun. Now it was too late. My breath had forced the butterfly to appear, all crumpled, before its time. It struggled desperately and, a few seconds later, died in the palm of my hand.

That little body is, I do believe, the greatest weight on my conscience. For I realize today that it is a mortal sin to violate the great laws of nature. We should not hurry, we should not be impatient, but we should confidently obey the eternal rhythm.

I sat on a rock to absorb this thought. Ah, if only that little butterfly could always flutter before me to show me the way.

-- Nikos Kazantzakis.



Outreach Activity Ideas

Does your community have a river clean up or other type of community clean up project? Find out and spend the day helping. Many of these are scheduled on Sabbath so you may have to work with the organizers to schedule something on Sunday. You might even be able to get your entire church involved.

An eye for an eye only leads to more blindness.

- Margaret Atwood

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

--The Positive Side

Safety Tip



Camping Safely with Fire

Know your tent: Most tents are labeled flame resistant, but they still burn.

Flames and other heat sources can ignite a tent in a matter of seconds. What is camping without a campfire or grill? Boring, right? Imagine driving to your favorite camp ground and seeing a sign that reads "CAMP FIRES PROHIBITED DUE TO EXCESSIVE FIRE DAMAGE LAST YEAR". This could possible happen in the future if people continue to be careless with camp fires and outdoor cooking.

How can we avoid this and ensure a safer camping season? By following these simple suggestions:

- Your tent should be 15 to 20 feet upwind from your campfire or grill.
- Lantern's and camp stoves should be used inside your tent for lighting or as a heat source. Use only battery operated lights.
- Children should not be allowed to play near open camp fires.
- Obtain a burn permit when required.
- A fire extinguisher, container of water or pail of soil should be readily available at all times.
- Turn off fuel to lanterns and stoves and extinguish all open flames thoroughly before going to bed.
- The area around your tent, grill, and camp fire should be free of pine needles, dry grass and leaves.
- A quick class of stop, drop, and roll is advisable to teach everyone how to put out clothing fires.
- Make sure to area over the fire is clear of all obstructions (limbs, etc.).
- Do not build fires if there are high winds.
- If a fire pit is not available and fires are permitted, build a fire ring out of rock to keep the fire contained.
- Use care when working near the fire; shirt sleeves can catch fire quickly.

Honor Toolbox



Ecology

April 22 is Earth Day. Participating in an Earth Day event would be a great way to wrap up teaching your Pathfinders the ecology honor. Here are some websites that may give you some project ideas.

[Earthday Network](#)
[Kids F.A.C.E \(Kids for a Clean Environment\)](#)
[Kids Domain.com – Earth Day–Every Day](#)
[Project Wet](#)

Hike of the Month

'The journey is the destination'

Andrews Cove Trail, Helen, GA



Take GA 75 north from Helen, Georgia for 5 miles. Turn right into the Andrews Cove Recreational Area.

This trail follows an old logging road up Andrews Cove to the Appalachian Trail and Forest Service Road 283 at Indian Grave Gap. Andrews Creek is nearby, but only occasionally visible.

Because this trail has a unusual number of dogwoods it is exceptionally beautiful in April and early May when they bloom. The trail gets steeper as you approach the [Appalachian Trail](#) and the final climb is difficult.

When you reach Indian Grave Gap the Appalachian Trail can be taken either way for some great views. To the right is Tray Mountain, which has the better view but is a longer hike (2.5 miles). To the left is Rocky Mountain, just under a mile and a half away.

In addition to being a good hike, Andrews Cove has camping. Each of the 11 campsites has a tentpad, grill and picnic table. The loop road around the campsite is paved. For more information on open dates, times, and amenities call the USDA Forest Service at (706) 754-6221

Trail Length: 2.0 miles (one way)

Location: [White County](#)

Type of trail: In and out

Rating: Moderate/ Strenuous



Knot this Month

Boy Scouts Troop 396 has put a knot book on the internet. Here you will find life-sized graphics, large enough to tie right on top of the picture. The knot book is a portable document file (pdf). [Knot Book](#) Print out the pages for each Pathfinder that you are teaching knots to and they will be able to following the very large pictures. There are 12 different knot cards.

Camp Cooking



Some of you saw the demonstration that was done of Dutch oven cooking at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Camporee. Here's some information on the demonstration.

I used large flat galvanized pans to put the coals in. One came from Ace hardware the other from Home Depot. These pans may also be called metal oil-drain pans.

It's definitely better to get a Dutch oven that has legs but if you happened to get a Dutch oven that has a flat bottom you will need a cooking tripod to hold the pot over the coals. Here's a website with instructions on how to make one.

[Take-apart Campfire Cooking Tripod](#)

I made cherry and apple cobblers. Here's the recipe.

Cobbler

2 cans fruit pie filling
1 box cake mix
1 stick of butter
1/3 cup brown sugar (optional)
1 1/3 c. chopped nuts (optional)

- Line a 6 qt. Dutch Oven with foil
- Butter foil liner
- Pour the pie filling in the oven
- Evenly spread the dry cake mix on top of the pie filling
- Sprinkle the brown sugar on top of the cake and top with 1/4" pads of butter
- For a 6 qt. Dutch Oven, place 9 coals underneath and 15 coals on top
- Let cobbler cook for 40-60 minutes or until done.

Here are some combinations that you might want to try
Cherry – White or yellow cake
Apple – Yellow, butter pecan or spice cake
Blueberry – White or yellow cake

Nature Nugget



Changing the Land

Grades: 6-12

Objectives: Pathfinders will 1) compare historical aerial photographs with current aerial photographs and determine what factors influenced land use decisions; 2) evaluate the impacts of different land uses on an area; 3) consider future changes in land use and the affect on a community.

Material: aerial photographs (one historical and one current for each team of 3-4 students); plastic sheets the same size as the photos; washable markers in various colors.

Background: Communities make land use decisions every day. Take a look at areas surrounding large cities, in redeveloping downtown areas of older cities, and in the countryside and you'll see land use changes.

Given the impact that humans have already had and continue to have on the land, a major challenge facing communities, both urban and rural, is how to plan for continued growth. What are the best ways to accommodate growth and minimize the negative impact on the existing community and the natural environment?

The purpose of this activity is to evaluate past land use changes in a community and determine the impact of these changes on the land. Changes in communities can be easily seen by comparing historical aerial photographs to current ones. To make this activity most relevant to your students, try to use photos of your community. Aerial photos can be purchased from most Regional Planning Commission offices. Most locations have photos going back to the 1960s or 1970s. Another source of aerial photos is your county Land Conservation District office.

In looking at land use changes, students will consider what factors may have been involved in making the various land use decisions. Students will try to determine what future land use changes may occur and suggest ways these changes could be implemented to reduce the impact on wildlife habitat, water quality, and quality of life.

Procedure:

1) Divide the class into teams of 3-4 students. Place the plastic sheets over the older aerial photographs. Identify the different land uses on these photos using different colored markers to show each land use. Look for waterways, forests, agriculture, residential areas, industry, parks, and transportation corridors.

2) Place the same plastic sheet over the most recent aerial photo. Identify the changes that have occurred in land use. Students should answer the following questions:

- a) What were the major changes in land use? What developments occurred? Use markers to show the changes.
- b) What types of land use were lost? Forests? Agriculture? Why do you think these changes were made?
- c) What changes occurred in the roadways or railways? Why?
- d) Was there any commercial development? Parking lots?
- e) What are the effects, both positive and negative that have occurred because of these changes. Are there effects on water quality? Wildlife habitat? Quality of life?

3) Ask each team to identify new areas for community development. Assume your community will require 50 additional single family homes, five apartment buildings, and five new businesses in the next year. (If you're doing this for a large urban area, you may want to increase the number of required new homes, apartments and businesses to better reflect reality or you may want to single out and plan for a certain area of the city.) Have students mark where this development should occur. Discuss why teams targeted certain areas for development. Will transportation systems need to change? List the impacts of these developments on your community.

Extensions:

Local Planning. Investigate local zoning ordinances in your community. Who is responsible for land use planning? Who develops the zoning regulations? Invite a local planner to your classroom to talk about their role in community land use planning.

Undeveloped Areas. Identify an area on the aerial photo where no development has occurred. Complete an on-site inventory of the plant and animal life found there.

Community Survey. Develop a survey instrument to administer in the local community. The survey could measure people's responses to community growth, new roads, and other land use issues.

This activity was developed by the [Project WILD program](#), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and is an extension of the Project WILD activity, "Dragonfly Pond."

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*The elevator to success is out of order.  
You'll have to use the stairs...  
one step at a time.*

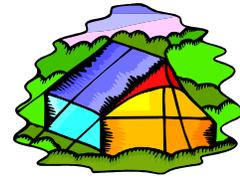
## Geocaching

### Teaching your Caching Pathfinders How to Behave

- Tread lightly. Children, by nature, are not delicate creatures. They are known to crash through the woods and walk off-trail and generally create a ruckus. It is our responsibility to teach them to respect nature and treat our natural resources with respect.
- Try to keep up. Of course, as Pathfinder staff, we know that some kids might have a hard time keeping up on a hike. However, the child who dilly-dallies and stops to look at every bug really holds things up.
- Respect your elders. Kids need to know that they should not dive right into a cache, throwing items out willy-nilly and grabbing for whatever they want. Adults need to check things out first, in case there is anything potentially dangerous or inappropriate; not all cachers follow the rules as to what is allowed in a cache. It is also generally disrespectful of children to push ahead of parents or other adults.
- Trade fairly. This one takes practice and patient teaching on the part of the staff. This knowledge does not come naturally to a child, who will gladly throw in their prized golf ball or McToy in exchange for a signature item. A child who does this sort of thing will grow up to be an adult who behaves similarly. Let's break the pattern!
- Know the "rules" of travel bugs. The first time my older son encountered a travel bug in the "wild", he was so excited. I later found out that he was excited because he thought he could keep it. I quickly explained to him that travel bugs are meant to keep moving and that they often have goals. Later on, I was able to provide each of my sons with their own travel bugs so they could more completely understand the concept.
- Remember that not everyone knows what you're doing. It may be tempting for the child to burst out to anyone that is passed on the way back to the car, "Hey, guess what we found!" It may take a few reminders and conversations about caches being secret except to people who were specifically looking for them before they remember not to blurt out the information.
- Have fun! As adults we also need to recognize when kids are not enjoying the cache hunt, and pack it in for the day. A cranky kid makes everyone around him miserable.

Today's Cacher – August 2004

## Camping Ground Cloths



There are two schools of thoughts about ground cloths. Some advocate using a plastic ground cloth on the **INSIDE** of your tent. Others tell you to put the ground cloth under the tent.

The main job of a ground cloth is not to keep you dry; it is to protect the coating on the tent floor so the **COATING** keeps you dry. By putting a sheet of plastic between the floor of the tent and nasty, sharp sticks, grinding rocks, and abrasive mud of the forest floor primeval, you accomplish that goal. Putting a ground cloth inside the tent cannot do that.

All modern, good-quality tent floors are coated with polyurethane, forming a completely waterproof barrier. So a floor that leaks is: A) defective, B) worn out, or C) standing in a two-inch puddle of water while a couple of campers bounce up and down on the floor. Moreover, if moisture is getting into the tent through the floor, it will find its way into your gear, either by squirting out from under that inside-the-tent ground cloth, or by evaporating and condensing on something else.

If your ground cloth is bigger than your tent, fold up the extra and tuck it underneath. If you don't the ground cloth will collect and funnel water under the tent when it rains. You can purchase custom ground cloths but they are expensive. A less expensive option is to get a roll of thin clear polyethylene sheeting from your local hardware store and cut your own. Make sure to cut the plastic for your ground clothes 2" smaller on each side the same shape as your tent. This makes it easier for your Pathfinders to make use it isn't sticking out. Also if you have more than one type/size of tent mark the ground cloth with a black marker so that it's clear which tent a tarp goes with.

Another option that I've read about is using the Tyvek vapor-barrier wrap used on houses. It is a durable, extremely lightweight ground cloth. It only comes in 9-by-200-foot rolls, though, so the best way to get it is to keep an eye out for houses under construction. Just ask the foreman if you can buy a piece the size you need (it retails for about \$.75 a foot).

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