

# Spring has Sprung!

## AEOE, Family Camp and Summer Camp, Oh MY! By Glacier

Some of our staff attended the CA Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Spring Conference along with over 200 educators from across the state. Our staff facilitated workshops on solar activities and staff training. We connected with countless environmental educators and learned so much from each other. We gained new skills and knowledge to share with the rest of our education staff who couldn't attend in order better serve our students! At the conference, we received a homemade solar oven from Solar Schoolhouse ([solarschoolhouse.org](http://solarschoolhouse.org)). You might see this oven in action during our Energy class!

If you are looking for a way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend, Pathfinder is hosting a family camp from May 11th to May 12th. Some of the activities will include archery, canoeing, campfire, rock climbing, Mother's Day brunch and more!



*Homemade Solar Oven*

If you enjoyed science camp and would like to get a chance to do some of your favorite camp activities again, we still have space available for our summer camp sessions running from July 15th -20th and July 22nd -27th . We still have some scholarships available for those who qualify, so don't delay!

Registration is open for both Family Camp and Summer Camp on our website. Or feel free to call us for more information [\(951\) 659-2455](tel:9516592455).

Hope to see more of you at Pathfinder!

### Inside this issue:

*AEOE, Family Camp and Summer Camp, Oh MY!* 1

*Ethnobotany Spring Blooms* 1

*What's New at Pathfinder?* 2

*Let's Start a Nature Club!* 2

*DIY Earth Day Project* 2

### Storm Damage Repair Campaign

Pathfinder Ranch sustained damage during the February storms and has started a campaign to fund repairs. If you would like to know more or contribute please go to <http://pathfinderranch.com/donate/>



## Ethnobotany Spring Blooms By Dandelion

Yucca is beginning to bloom here at Pathfinder Ranch! Can you guess what other food-plant yucca is related to?

Asparagus! Yucca is in the asparagus family. The Ca-huilla traditionally pit-cook the large stalks, similarly as to how you bake asparagus.

Fremont Barberry is beginning to bloom, too! Path-



*Fremont Barberry*

finder Ranch may be the only spot on the mountain where this rare native plant grows.

The super blooms this year have been incredible, but please remember that it's important to leave wildflowers alone as they're an important food source for many pollinators like bees and hummingbirds. Please be responsible and let those beautiful friends grow. Have fun taking pictures and "smelling the roses"!

## What's New at Pathfinder? By Sloth

With spring blooming around us, there are plenty of new and exciting things happening at Pathfinder Ranch.

One of those exciting changes is the new addition of Mary-Ann, our newest horse! She's settling in very nicely and getting used to taking people for rides.



Another exciting addition was the birth of our newest chicken named Jeff. Jeff was born on February 5th to an expecting father of the same name. Jeff has been introduced to our flock and enjoying learning about how to be a chicken.

All of our chickens at Pathfinder free range during the day, which means they are able to move freely around the camp looking for food to eat. This provides them with fresh air, sunlight, and plenty of exercise to stay healthy. We are excited to see Jeff grow as a part of our flock!



*Jeff (Naturalist) with Jeff (new chicken)!*

## Let's Start a Nature Club! By Goose

Looking for a way to connect your students to nature in your local community? Nature clubs at elementary schools are a great way to teach children about nature and their relationship to it, as well as environmental stewardship.

Possible topics for a nature club meeting include learning about local plant and animal species, potential threats to local species, or discussing ways to conserve water, energy and other resources.

After school meetings are also a great space to conduct hands-on activities such as wildflower identification, nature observations, taking field notes, collecting data for citizen science projects, planting a school garden or carrying out a group conservation project.

A nature club could be an opportunity for children not only to learn about their local environment, but also recognize the impact they can make as well.

Search online for nature club ideas, resources and potentially clubs near

*"A nature club could be an opportunity for students... to learn about their local environment."*

you! The Children & Nature Network is a great place to start looking! <https://www.childrenandnature.org/>

## DIY Earth Day By Trail Mix

For Earth Day this year, try starting your own herb garden. You can use recycled materials to sprout and grow your plants.

Egg cartons are a great place to start your seedlings. Fill each circle with a little soil, a few seeds, add water, and leave in a sunny place (like a window sill). Check the directions on the seed packet to see how much water, space, and sun



*Up-cycled plastic containers!*

your plants need.

Once your plants start growing you can move them into a larger container where they'll have more space.

You can repurpose plastic containers, tin cans, and glass jars to use as planters. Once your plants are strong and hearty, you can move them outside or keep them in the kitchen to add herbs to home cooked meals!

What other materials can you find at home to up-cycle for the upcoming growing season?

Pathfinder Ranch is a non-profit organization founded in 1964 that is dedicated to connecting people to nature and each other. We offer outdoor education field trips, youth summer camp, and retreat opportunities for groups of all types and ages. We take pride in providing affordable and high quality programming throughout the year. Check out our website and Facebook page for more information, and contact us if you have questions.

35510 Pathfinder Road  
Mountain Center, CA 92561  
Phone: (951) 659-2455  
Fax: (951) 659-0351  
Email: [info@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:info@pathfinderranch.com)  
Website: [www.pathfinderranch.com](http://www.pathfinderranch.com)