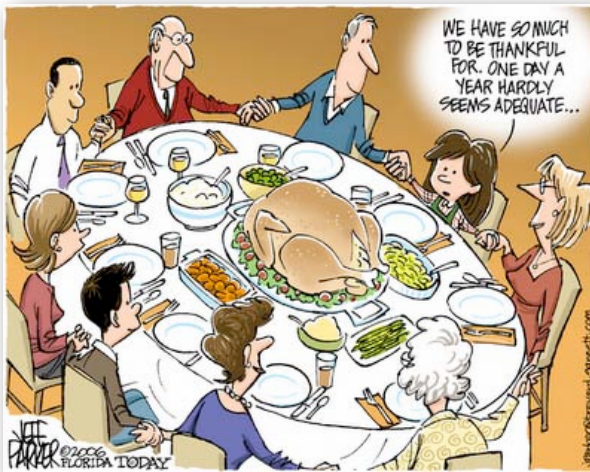


# Homeschool Herald

The Newsletter Created By  
and For Homeschoolers

*The place to share your creative creations.*



Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Every family has their own traditions, which may include a big meal, time with the family, possibly a football game, and hopefully lots of reflection on how lucky we are and how thankful we are for what we have. We should be thankful every day for our many blessings, but it's also nice to set aside a special day each year to remind ourselves...

Please make sure you take some time to think about all you have. When you think about what we really need, it's pretty simple: food, water, and air. That's all that's really required for us to survive. But we

have so much more...a roof over our heads, clothes, a loving family, friends, toys, stereos, iPods, Playstations, Game Cubes, dogs, cats, birds, books, CDs, movies, the list goes on and on... So this year, please thank your family for being so wonderful, even if your parents make you mad sometimes. And think about all the great things you have in your life that you're thankful for, whether it's clothes, or toys, or yummy food, or a favorite pet, or whatever it is...don't take it for granted.

Let us know what you're thankful for, or how you spent Thanksgiving, or what you plan on

**Welcome!**

Homeschool Excursions hopes you enjoy the November issue of the *Homeschool Herald*.

Homeschool Excursions operates under Educational Excursions' umbrella. This is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to provide a valuable resource to students in Georgia. The *Homeschool Herald* is a monthly newsletter that provides a creative outlet for homeschoolers.

Our homeschoolers possess a wealth of skills and talents! All contributions are welcome including pictures, stories, articles, and more. We invite everyone to share ideas, suggestions, and submissions. Share with us!!

*-Vered Kleinberger  
Program Coordinator*

doing this winter, or if you have any exciting holiday plans, or whatever else you want to send us. We want to hear all about it!

We look forward to seeing what you have to share! Send us your creative creations! Thanks!

Submissions may also be sent via e-mail or snail mail. Please contact us with any questions, comments, ideas, or suggestions.

**SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?**

Because steel expands when it gets hot, the Eiffel Tower is six inches taller in the summer than in the winter.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

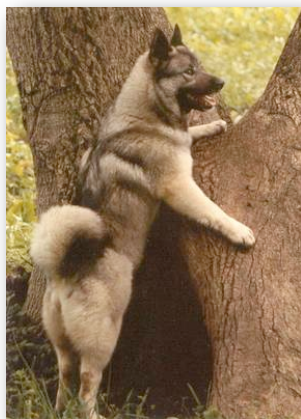
**SU DOKU**

The numbers 1-9 must be in every column, row and box

2	1	6						8
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6						2	4	5

**NORWEGIAN ELKHOUNDS**

A Norwegian Elkhound is a very interesting breed of dog. Standing at fifty-two centimeters tall and ranging from fifty to sixty pounds, they are medium sized dogs.



Norwegian Elkhounds are Spitz-like dogs which have a curly tail, long fur, pointed ears and muzzle. Their coats have a range of different colors and patterns which vary from black, to brown, to beige, to white. Norwegian Elkhounds have two coats, an upper coat and a lower coat. The upper coat

provides protection from sleet, rain, snow and dirt keeping them clean. While the under coat is made of a downy substance that keeps the dog warm. These dogs shed two times a year. Sometimes, the lucky owners of these breeds collect the fur that they brush off of them to spin into yarn. The owner can then crochet or knit them into sweaters. The finished product is warm, soft and beautiful.

Norwegian Elkhound is a translation from its original name Norsk Elghund. Fossils of the Norwegian Elkhound have been found and dated to about six thousand years ago. Archeologists suggest that these dogs were domesticated during the stone age.

Original fossils were found in Scandinavia and later in Norway. Nobody knows why the dogs moved to Norway, archeologists guess that they followed the large game. Once the elkhounds had been in Norway for hundreds of years, the Vikings decided to train them as hunting dogs and guard dogs.



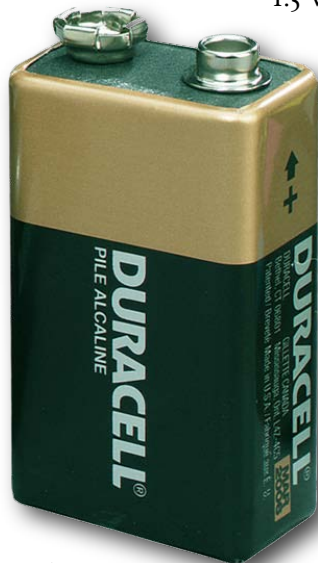
Norwegian Elkhounds were used to hunt big game such as bears, wolves, moose and elk. The hunting tactics of an elkhound include jumping on the selected target keeping them at bay until the hunter comes to kill the animal. Another hunting tactic is to roll in the prey's smell until their scent is totally masked. Then, the dog will ambush the unsuspecting animal off its guard. They are loyal, brave and cunning and make good family dogs because of the protection they provide for their "packs." Dominance is an important factor for their breed. If the dog believes that it is in charge it will be disobedient and may run away.

Norwegian Elkhounds are beautiful, ancient hunters that have been prowling Europe for thousands of years. Has anyone seen this Norsk Elghund prowling around Roberts school (during GA-EPH classes? Hint: her name is Tela.

Written by Lindsey Ramona Bick

**WHY ARE NON-VOLT BATTERIES RECTANGULAR?**

Most of the best-selling battery configurations (e.g. AA, AAA, C, D) are 1.5 volts. Nine-volt batteries, formerly known as “transistor batteries,” contain six 1.5-volt batteries. The 1.5 cells within the casing are cylindrical.



If you were to stack six cylinders in the most economical shape, wouldn't a rectangle be the most natural choice? Just try putting six cylinders into a square or cylindrical casing without wasting space.

Dan Halaburda, marketing manager for Panasonic, told us that the shape of nine-volt batteries goes back to when they were

used to power communication devices in which space was a premium. Today, the most common application for nine-volt batteries is in smoke detectors.

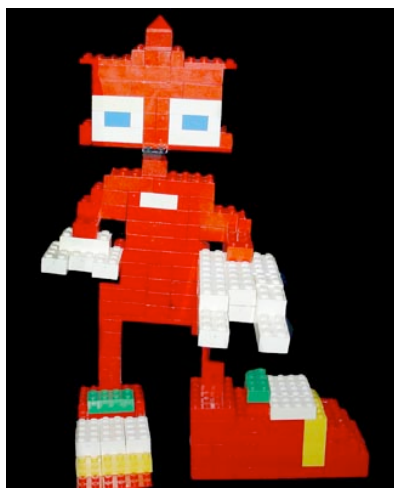
*Submitted by Matt Garrett of Augusta, Missouri*

Feldman, David. When Did Wild Poodles Roam the Earth?. New York: HarperCollins, 1992. page 104.

Index of images:  
<http://www.museumtour.com>

Artist:  
 Sage Gilleland  
 Age 11

Media:  
 Lego Brick  
 Sculpture  
 “Legoman”



**THANKSGIVING**

S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	C	K
H	N	S	E	T	T	L	E	R	S
P	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	A	M
I	L	D	F	A	L	L	H	N	Y
N	T	Y	S	J	Y	L	A	B	L
D	U	I	M	D	I	N	N	E	R
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A	K	L	I	Y	U	I	S	R	P
N	E	P	Z	W	A	T	E	Y	I
S	Y	H	E	T	R	C	H	L	E

There are nine words hidden in the puzzle above. They can be found up, down, across, diagonal, and backwards.

Word List:

- |           |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Turkey    | Dinner   | Thanks   |
| Cranberry | Pie      | Settlers |
| Fall      | Stuffing | Harvest  |
| Maize     | Plymouth | Indians  |

**HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS  
 UPCOMING EVENTS**

Our Fall and Winter calendar has been posted on the website, and it's FULL of exciting adventures! Also, remember that new programs are always being added, so be sure to check our Calendar of Events for updates. Here's a list of some of what you can look forward to:

- November 29 Nature Awareness Skills with Steven 'Snowbear' Taylor
- December 11 Buckskin pouches with Alice Craig
- January 9 Duke Ellington's Cat at the Center for Puppetry Arts
- January 29 Fire, String, and Rocks with Scott Jones
- February 22 Suessical the Musical at the Alliance (with a back stage tour!)

We look forward to seeing you and your family soon!



**WEEDS? WHAT WEEDS?**

I am going to start this month's article by saying that you should NEVER eat mushrooms without first consulting a professional. If you have any questions, you should take the mushrooms you find to your local Extension Office or another local conservation group. I was hesitant to even broach this topic, but I figured it's something folks are usually curious about... but remember, NEVER eat a wild mushroom without first consulting a professional.

'Tis the season for mushrooms, hopefully. They like to come out in the Spring and Fall, when it's usually raining. I know I saw several varieties along my road after the rain last week, and with more rain in the forecast, we may get lucky! Below are a few of the many varieties of wild edible mushrooms that are available in our region. But first... a little information about mushrooms:

- Mushrooms are actually the fruits of fungus. The fungus itself is simply a net of threadlike fibers, called a mycelium, growing in soil, wood or decaying matter. Mushrooms on a mycelium are like apples on an apple tree.
- The function of a mushroom is to produce spores, which are the "seeds" of the fungus. Some kinds of mushrooms produce their spores on gills (the gilled fungi); some in pores (the pore fungi); some on teeth (the tooth fungi); some inside a leathery pouch (the puffballs); some on the inside of shallow cups (the cup fungi, including the morels); and some simply on the surface of the mushroom (coral fungi and others). The spores form on these various structures, then fall off to blow away on the wind or be carried by animals, water or insects. If a spore lands in a suitable spot, it germinates and grows into a new mycelium.
- The mushrooms most people recognize are the gilled fungi. These typical parasol-shaped mushrooms have caps with blade-like gills on the underside and stems with or without rings. The pore fungi are similar in appearance but have a spongy layer of tubes of pores on the underside of the cap instead of gills.

And now... a few of our local varieties!



The **chanterelle** is one of the world's best-known choice wild mushrooms. Professional pickers strip clean forests in the Pacific Northwest, ship the chanterelles to France in refrigerated planes, can them, and return them to

the US as expensive imported French gourmet mushrooms!

Nevertheless, some people experience gastric distress from chanterelles, especially if they're undercooked, so cook them at least 15 minutes, and go easy on them the first time you try them.

Chanterelles are great sautéed in olive oil with a little garlic. Traditionally added to omelets and egg dishes, they're excellent in vegan mock egg dishes as well, and they can't be beat in soups, stews, or casseroles. They also provide vitamin A.

The name "**Hen of the Woods**" refers to its appearance, which strongly resembles a hen with ruffled feathers. In the Appalachian region, it is called "Sheepshead" or "Ramshead" by many—a similar visual metaphor. The Japanese name, Maitake, means "dancing mushroom"—not to imply that the mushroom itself dances, but that the mushroom hunter lucky enough to find one is often inspired to dance happily at the discovery.

This wonderful species is typically associated with oak, so the best way to find it is to seek it during autumn around the base of large oak trees (living or dead) and stumps. Other known hosts include elm, maple, beech, chestnut and sycamore; it has also been reported with larch (tamarack), pines and other conifers.



It has a distinctive smell and flavor. In addition to being a great edible there is growing evidence that it is highly medicinal, boosting the immune system

to fight cancer and stabilizing blood sugar and blood pressure. Maitake may have antihypertensive and antidiabetic properties as well.

For the table, the Hen of the Woods may be the most versatile mushroom of all. It has a unique truly excellent flavor that neither overpowers nor is easily overpowered. It has a slightly astringent edge. It is great sautéed, deep-fried, boiled, and dried.

The family *Lycoperdaceae*, the **True Puffballs**, contains many edible species. From a culinary perspective, these puffballs can be divided into two groups based on texture: firm and spongy (marshmallow-like). Firm puffballs include the Purple-pored (*Bovista pila*), Giant (*Calvatia gigantea*) and Western Giant (*Calvatia booniana*). Examples of spongy edible puffballs include the Gem-studded (*Lycoperdon perlatum*) and Pear-shaped (*Lycoperdon pyriforme*). All edible puffballs must be collected while still very young, before the spores have begun to develop - the interior flesh should be completely white, if you find one with black interior, please discard.

Each puffball should be sliced from top to bottom and the interior examined. It should be completely white and featureless inside, like a slice of white bread. There should be no trace of yellow or brown (which will spoil the flavor) and especially no sign of a developing mushroom with a stalk, gills and cap (see [Poisonous Mushrooms](#)). Amanitas, when young, can resemble small puffballs, but cutting them open will quickly resolve the question.



To prepare firm puffballs: Slice or chop puffballs Saute in butter or olive oil. For added flavor, saute mushrooms with one minced shallot or one minced garlic clove. Puffballs may be successfully frozen at this point. Serve sauteed mushrooms as a sidedish with poultry or meat, mix with other vegetables or pearl onions, use as a stuffing for a savory pie or chicken.

There are many, many varieties of delicious mushrooms in Georgia. Lots of them are edible, some will make you sick, and a few are deadly. Be sure you consult with someone knowledgeable before eating any mushrooms!

Mushrooms are delicious and nutritious. So keep your eyes open after it rains. I suggest buying a mushroom guide, but be sure it has color photos rather than drawings so you can accurately identify the fungus you're researching. Happy hunting!

Please research all plants before using them, and NEVER pick and eat anything without first consulting an herbalist or a qualified plant guide. Always be aware of whether the

area you are gathering from may have been sprayed with chemicals.

I am going to finish this month's article by saying that you should NEVER EVER eat mushrooms without first consulting a professional.

Index of images and information:

- <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/mushrooms/mushroom/>
- <http://americanmushrooms.com/edibles1.htm>
- <http://www.wildmanstevebrill.com/Mushrooms.Folder/The%20Chanterelle.html>
- <http://mushroom-collecting.com/mushroommaitake.html>
- [http://www.wonderworkers.com/ Native\\_Plants\\_of\\_Union\\_County\\_Georgia.htm](http://www.wonderworkers.com/Native_Plants_of_Union_County_Georgia.htm)
- <http://www.calflora.net/specialpages/images/puffball1.jpg>

*Please consult your physician before making any medical or dietary decisions.*

Compiled by Plant Enthusiast, Vered Kleinberger

**REMEMBER!!**

**WHEN YOU'RE SHOPPING ONLINE,**

**FIRST LOG INTO**

**[WWW.SCHOOLPOP.COM](http://WWW.SCHOOLPOP.COM)**

**AND A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR**

**PURCHASE WILL BE DONATED TO**

**HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS!**

**HELP REDUCE PROGRAM FEES AT NO**

**ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU! THANKS!!**

**[SCHOOL ID# 130495](#)**

CUT THIS OUT AND TAPE IT TO YOUR  
COMPUTER AS A REMINDER.

**We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have.**

**~ Frederick Keonig**

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**If the only prayer you said in your whole  
life was, "thank you," that would suffice.**

**~Meister Eckhart**

**HOMESCHOOLERS TAKING A  
BACKSTAGE TOUR AT THE  
ALLIANCE THEATRE IN ATLANTA  
AFTER WATCHING  
DEGA'S LITTLE DANCER**



**SET PIECES FROM PREVIOUS SHOWS...  
ONE OF THE MANY  
STORAGE ROOMS**



**TOURING THE COSTUME MAKING  
ROOM ... THEY MAKE MOST OF THE  
COSTUMES USED IN THEIR SHOWS**





**EDITOR'S NOTE**

This newsletter was created to provide a space for students to express their creativity and receive recognition for their accomplishments. All students are invited to share with us!

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

- All the homeschoolers who contributed to the production of each issue. This couldn't have been done without you!
- YES! (Youth Engaged in Science) for their support and collaboration in providing quality programs for students in Georgia.
- Our advertisers for their help in making the newsletter possible.
- And a very special thank you to the Board of Directors for your hard work and dedication.

Homeschool Excursions, PO Box 1283, Jasper, GA 30143  
(770) 605-2451 [info@homeschoolexcursions.org](mailto:info@homeschoolexcursions.org)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please contact Homeschool Excursions to be placed on our mailing list, e-mail loop, or for advertising rates.

Receive a COLOR copy of the Homeschool Herald monthly in your mailbox for the low rate of \$15.00 a year. Help support the *Homeschool Herald*; subscription fees assist in covering printing costs. Send payment payable to Homeschool Excursions.

**The Homeschool Herald is printed on recycled paper. Help preserve our environment through the use of recycled products and by reducing waste.**

# Homeschool Excursions Membership Form

Yes! I want to help Homeschool Excursions grow!  
I join at the following membership level:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Seed: \$25-34.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sprout: \$35-49.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shoot: \$50-99.00
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Enclosed is my payment for: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the Membership page on the  
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member benefits and additional information.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of homeschoolers in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!  
We're looking forward to a fantastic year!!**

Mail form to: Homeschool Excursions  
PO Box 1283, Jasper, GA 30143



# The November Issue

The holidays are right around the corner! How exciting! Time with family and friends, vacation from school, lots of yummy food, the list goes on...

While you're enjoying the festivities, be sure to remember to be thankful for all you have!

And in the spirit of being thankful...Homeschool Excursions is going to be publishing a calendar for the 2008-09 school year, and we need your help. We need the artwork to fill the pages, so let your creative juices flow!

The theme for the calendar is "I'm thankful and happy, because..." so

send up a drawing, painting, or other creation of what you're thankful for or of something that makes you happy.

The deadline is January 31, 2008, but we're already accepting submissions. Information is available on the Homeschool Excursions website.

Share with us what makes you happy. Show us what you're thankful for. Be included in the 2008-09 Homeschool Excursions school calendar!!

And have a happy and healthy 2007 Holiday Season!

## What's Inside?

### **Norwegian Elkhounds**

Lindsey tells us all about this beautiful breed of dog. Learn about their history, the different layers of their coat, and more!

### **Weeds? What weeds?**

Fall is usually a season that brings rain. We can only hope... and when it does come, you can be sure that mushrooms will be popping up everywhere! Look inside for info on some yummy mushrooms, but always consult a professional before eating anything you find outside.

### **Songs, Poems, Pictures, Stories, Articles, Games, and More**

See what the homeschoolers have created this month. Each Herald is very different, so explore this issue, and we hope you enjoy the creativity of these homeschoolers!

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Homeschool Excursions  
PO Box 1283  
Jasper, GA 30143