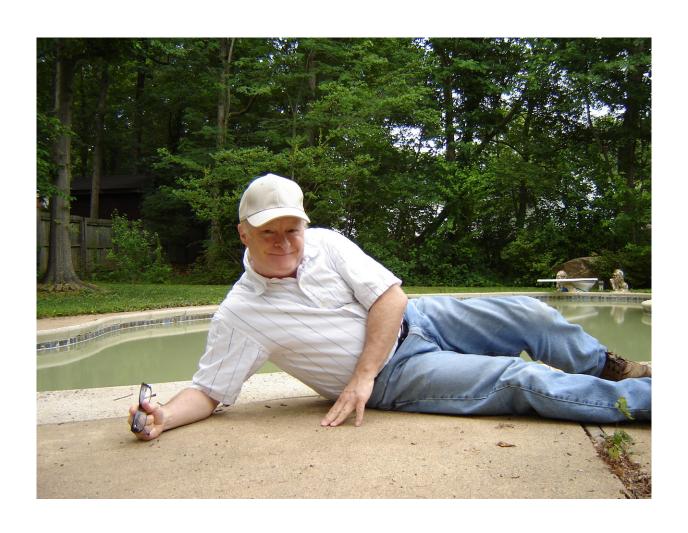
Bapa in the Back Yard

by Bapa (Grandpa)

for Forrest on his 4th birthday

June 9, 2010



Bapa in the Back Yard

Bapa wants to show you some of the interesting wild life that he encountered in his back yard this spring. Some are pretty, and some are a bit scary. Are you ready?



Charles the Chipmunk

The first friend from spring that

Bapa met was Charles the Chipmunk.

Charles likes to eat nuts and fruit, and
he scampers all over the place with his
friends.

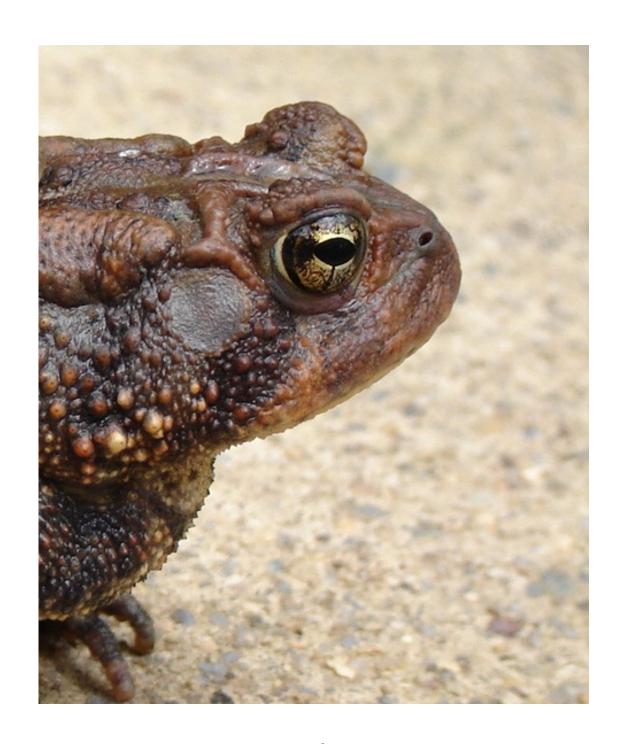
Do you think Charles is scary?



Keri the Cardinal

Just about every day, Bapa sees
Keri the Cardinal, or one of her
friends. Bapa never gets tired of
seeing Cardinals.

Do you like seeing Cardinals?



Fanny the Frog

Fanny was just one of many frogs Bapa found swimming in the pool this spring. Fanny, who is part of the reptile family of the animal kingdom, was sunning herself on the concrete. She may have been ready to lay some of her eggs.



Sammy the Snake

Brian, who mows Bapa's lawns, discovered Sammy the Snake sunning himself on a plastic tarp way in the back of the yard. Snakes are also reptiles.

A person should NEVER touch any wildlife – no matter how cute it looks – for many good reasons. In particular, we need to stay away from snakes, as they may be poisonous.

Bapa sent Vicky the County
Biologist a picture of Sammy. Vicky
said Sammy was not venomous, but
that we should always stay away from
snakes in Virginia just in case.

Are you afraid of snakes?

Well, maybe we should just think of them – like all God's creatures – as harmless, useful, and indestructible; and as always worthy of our respect. So we don't have to be afraid of wild animals. We just need to keep our distance from them.



Toby the Tick

Bapa was outside working in the yard one morning. He suddenly noticed that Toby the Tick had attached himself to the skin of Bapa's side, just above his belt. How'd he get there? Toby was just trying to get some blood for a meal.

But remembering that Toby, as an animal in God's kingdom, was just doing what was natural, Bapa wasn't

afraid. But he did have a neighbor nearby carefully pluck Toby out with some tweezers.

You should always check yourself for bugs after playing outside. That's why baths at night are *especially* useful.



Louis the Lion

Louis the Lion was seen still guarding the pool this spring.

Do you think he needs some extra gold paint?



Nessie the Lock Ness Monster

Who do you see hiding in the bushes? That's right, it's Nessie!

(She's our friendly, pretend back-yard monster.)

Are you scared of her? Why not?
You're right: because she is just make
believe – just like *all* monsters.

Now, do you know what the scariest thing in Bapa's back yard just may very well be?

Are you ready to find out?

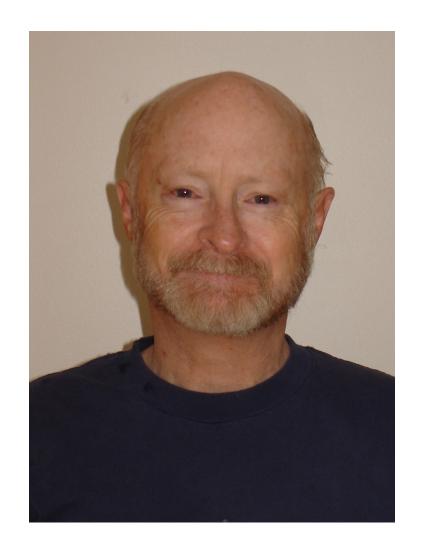
Are you Sure?

Are you sure that

you are sure?

Then close your eyes

- and quickly turn the page!



It's Bapa in a Beard!

Happy Birthday,

Forrest!

On the following pages, you may add your own pictures and make up your own stories. Do you think that would be fun?