

Friday, April 27, 2007

Black bear cub back home

An 18 month-old Louisiana black bear was reintroduced to the wild yesterday, after being fed and cared for by the Appalachian Bear Rescue in Tennessee. The cub was found last November in St. Mary Parish by a hunter. He weighed 15 pounds when captured, and was very small and near starvation. Paul Davidson, executive director of the nonprofit [Black Bear Conservation Committee](#) told *The Advocate* that when the cub was rescued, "it was so weak, when it bit you it didn't even hurt."



ABR Curator Lisa Stewart says in the [Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies newsletter](#):

The bear is returning to Louisiana a lot healthier than when he got here. We started him out on a commercial formula and yogurts. Then went to a more normal diet of lettuce, pecans and apples. The last month or so we fed him a lot of food that is found more readily where he will be released such as a lot of greens and corn.

When released yesterday in the Red River Wildlife Management Area, the cub was a healthy 90 pounds. Sprung from the steel transportation cage by members of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and the Black Bear Conservation Committee, the cub took off for the woods. Large-carnivore program manager of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Maria Davidson told *The Advocate*:

He did exactly the thing instinct told him to do. Find the closest tree and climb it. He looks good, very good.

(photo of American black bear from Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)

¶ by: Mary Tutwiler 10:06 AM

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& IndDesign Awards
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Keynote speaker,
Jeremy Harris
former Mayor of
Honolulu

Wednesday, May 24
11:30 a.m.

City Club at River Ranch
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Table of eight: \$255

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