

BEAR TRACKS

GOING HOME

Thanks to the rehabilitation service provided by Appalachian Bear Rescue, the first half of 2012 was a time of going home for 38 young black bears. When brought to ABR by wildlife officials most were cubs and most had major survival handicaps



by Rick Noseworthy

due to illness or injury. All

were returned home to the Appalachian wild lands as healthy yearlings, capable of surviving and thriving in the wild.

While 2012 was a going home for the young bears, it was a time of “coming home” for me personally. I was there at the beginning of ABR in 1990, cared for and released our first



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Looking sleepy but ready to go, our cubs were at the right stage to be released back to the wild.

INSIDE BEAR TRACKS

Going Home	1
ABR Facilities Report	2
Appalachian Bear Rescue Hires New Curator . . .	3
We ♥ Our Volunteers	3
Huge Weekends in Townsend	6
The Black Bear Cub: More Scientific Facts (Like it or Not)	7
2012 Bear Necessities Bear-ly Edibles & Auction	8

orphaned cub “Zero” in 1996, and continued as an active volunteer until 1998. Although I continued to be a proud follower and supporter, it was in late April 2012 that I felt I had returned home to ABR.

Initially I came to assist with the many maintenance and repair jobs that are required to operate such a facility. Then on May 1 I began serving as ABR Interim Curator with a very full task list including the care and security of half a dozen bears. It was great to be home.

We began the month of May with 6 yearling black bears. At least that’s what I hoped we had. The truth is that prior to the day the TWRA officers came on May 16 to transport them out and return them to the wild, I had only seen three individual bears. The other three I hoped were all accounted for in the mass of black fur barely visible inside the very dark den they preferred to hide in. What

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



APPALACHIAN BEAR RESCUE
P.O. BOX 364
TOWNSEND, TN 37882

ABR FACILITIES REPORT



Rick Noseworthy is seen here with two of our new buildings.

By Tom Faulkner

As you know we have been running a “Cub Nursery” campaign to retrofit one of the four 12’x25’ buildings we bought to upgrade our facilities. It is now complete and was used as the temporary home for Little Bit, our injured yearling from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The refrigerated food storage building is almost complete. The other two, one for storage of office supplies and equipment and the other for general storage, have been electrified and only need ceilings and paneling. Volunteer Mark Bailes has been an invaluable help on these projects.

Our hardest work has been the repair to pen fences and the cleanup of the surrounding grounds. Due to



An NPS officer weighs a cub inside our new nursery.



Volunteers help to perform much-needed repairs on ABR’s fences.

the constant occupancy by needy bears over the past five years there has been little chance to do the necessary maintenance. With the help of volunteers Ed Owens, Ronnie Ogle Tree Service, and technical advisor Kim DeLozier, the pens are like new again.

Future projects include new water lines to all buildings and pens and added security to the property. We want to thank all who have worked and donated to our projects and hope that your generous support will continue.



Charlie Lewis (left) and Buz Copeland worked hard to fix ABR’s enclosures.



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PROGRESS!**
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AppalachianBearRescue](http://www.facebook.com/AppalachianBearRescue)



APPALACHIAN BEAR RESCUE HIRES NEW CURATOR

COY BLAIR JOINS RICK NOSEWORTHY



Coy Blair will be taking over curator duties

Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR) is proud to announce that we have hired Curator Coy Blair. Blair graduated Magna Cum Laude from Maryville College in 2009 with a degree in Biology. He has also obtained certification as a nonprofit professional by the American Humanics organization. "Coy is a bright, young and energetic professional and we are delighted to welcome him to the Appalachian Bear Rescue," said Heather Ripley, spokeswoman for ABR. "We are confident that Coy's knowledge in the field of wildlife biology will allow us to continue to fulfill our mission and help educate the public about black bears to ensure the sustainability of our organization."

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In recent issues of *Bear Tracks* we have profiled individual volunteers who have given of their time and talents to further our mission. Last time we told about our volunteer training, and the new volunteers who joined our ranks. There have been so many volunteer activities in the past few months that we cannot select one individual. Instead, we will tell you about the many accomplishments by all.



L to R: DiAnne Wilson, Pam Spear, Barry Spear

Educational outreach included school programs, presentations for groups, and tabling at several events in the region. Our Black Bear Expo required planning and input from many volunteers, to say nothing of the hours spent manning the booths at the Expo and interacting with visitors.

Another important volunteer job is the placing and monitoring of donation jars in many businesses throughout the area. The volunteers who take care of donation jars must collect and deposit the funds, and report the amounts to our bookkeeper.

During recent weeks, as our bear population diminished, volunteers have helped with site work, including cleanup and construction. Check the report on the ABR facility, in another article.

Finally, we simply must mention the hours and hours of photography provided by our Webmaster and photojournalist

Dr. Ellen K. Rudolph, whose wonderful photos illustrate the articles in this newsletter as well as the Facebook page and the blog.

During May and June, our volunteers donated over 2,000 hours to ABR! We simply couldn't exist without them!



Without our volunteers, events like our recent Expo wouldn't be the same!

Happy Trails to Little Bit

© Appalachian Bear Rescue



Shown from left to right: Gordon E. Wright, Sr., Blount County Commissioner; Doug Overbey, Tennessee State Senator; and Art Swann, Tennessee House of Representatives bid farewell to Little Bit, wishing her safe adventures.



GOING HOME

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)



Well-fed, rested and fit, this cub is about to begin a great adventure.

a relief it was when 6 yearlings did emerge on release day. Each of the six was the responsibility of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). Each was released into the South Cherokee Wildlife Management Area. Of the six, Sky (aka ABR #157) received the longest period of care at ABR. She was a very small cub of 18 pounds when admitted on

November 20, 2011. She returned to the wild with her five ABR den mates on May 16 weighing 56 pounds and well equipped to take full advantage of her second chance. Her ABR den mates (now release mates) Eleanor, Stella, Junior, Amethyst, and little Dell were each received at ABR during early 2012 with very low body weight and low survival chance without help. Although Amethyst and little Dell were smaller at release than their mates, each bear had at least tripled his or her weight. Amethyst and Dell too returned home to the wild well equipped for a second chance, but will likely remain small when adults.

On May 3 ABR was called upon to help 2 young bears in need from Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) and of course we accepted the call and admitted the female yearlings, bringing our total population to 8. The siblings, now known as Rose and Loretta, were active and in spite of their smallish size (30 to 35 pounds) were not in immediate need of medical care or intervention. The two were orphaned prematurely in the Elkmont area of the Park at a time when natural foods were scarce. It was a concern that hunger might motivate them to follow their noses and seek human foods or garbage in the campground or other public use areas of Elkmont. Park biologists asked that we provide care until such time as the availability of ripe soft mast (primarily blackberries and the blueberries) was suitable to favor their survival on these natural foods.

Although our goal for these young bears was not to maximize weight gain, when they returned to the wild on June 22nd each had more than doubled in weight. Their daily feeding had included soft mast blackberries (thanks to ABR President Dana Dodd), blueberries, raspberries, and grapes, and when they were released the blackberries were entering full ripeness in the Park, plus some of the blueberries. Grapes would soon follow these. Rose and Loretta left ABR well prepared for their second chance.

On May 17, ABR was again asked and accepted a request from GSMNP Biologist Bill Stiver to help a black bear survive and return to the wild. Wildlife Technician Rick Varner had captured in the Cades Cove area of the Park a very small yearling bear with severe medical needs. He transported the bear to the University of Tennessee Veterinary Teaching Hospital where it was examined by Dr. Souza and Dr. Steeil. The little bear weighed 13 pounds, was dehydrated, and had a large wound on its snout. The prognosis was not good. After administering fluids and cleaning the wound, the team decided that ABR might be able to provide the specialized care that would be needed to ensure its survival. The other option was to euthanize the severely injured bear.

Those of you who regularly follow our progress and support ABR know that one of the priority projects for 2012 was the completion of a climate controlled indoor Cub Nursery for use in caring for cubs and other special needs bears. Thanks to your financial support and a lot of hard-working volunteers headed by Tom Faulkner, ABR Board Vice-President, the Nursery was completed with perfect timing to help its first occupant, the severely injured and ill bear now known as



Ready or not, here I come!



available to her in the Park release area.

As the Interim Curator I was asked to write this article about ABR bears, their needs, and the care we provided. Helping wild bears is why we do what we do, and their survival is why you support ABR. While during the last few months at ABR we have continued to provide quality care for the nine black bears housed at the facility, we have also been concentrating on making the necessary repairs and improvements that will allow us to provide the specialized rehabilitation services through the coming years. ABR has operated at the Blount County location since 1996. The oldest facilities, bear enclosures, and equipment are in need of much repair and maintenance. We are working hard to address these needs. Also, some of the new facilities and projects that were initiated in 2011 have been recently completed, including the Cub Nursery, and progress continues on others such as the cold food storage building. Most of the existing small pens that will be needed for housing special needs bears are being repaired. A major priority has been and continues to be construction of safety and sanitation improvements recommended by TWRA compliance inspectors and permitting officials. With the help of technical advisor Mr. Kim Delozier, Director Tom Faulkner, volunteer Ed Owens, and others who have endured the record heat, these major projects are being completed.

It's been months of hard work so far, but again I'll say it's great to be home at ABR.



This cub clearly shows one of the tags used by wildlife officers to provide identification should the cub be spotted again.



At the end of the ride, this cub is off to explore its new wild home.

Little Bit (aka ABR #185). Without the Cub Nursery, Little Bit would not have survived to return to the wild. She could not be housed outdoors due to the contamination risk to her wound from flies and other vermin. In the Nursery she was protected from such disease vectors and received specialized care and medications. Clear digital images provided by Photojournalist Dr. Ellen Rudolph were regularly sent to Dr. Souza, allowing her to monitor Little Bit's progress and assess needs. She gained strength quickly, and she never lost her wildness, I can assure you.

On June 8 Dr. Souza, Dr. Steeil, Bill Stiver and I sedated and examined Little Bit. She was in very good condition and weighed 30 pounds (up from 13 when admitted on May 17). For her continued rehabilitation with the goal of return to the wild, it was decided that moving her outdoors would be best, and that the wound was sufficiently well healed to allow the change. The antibiotic medication would continue. On June 11 we moved her to a much larger outdoor pen. Surprisingly, the presence of Little Bit in the area, even though she was not visible to them, created a reaction by the other Park yearlings Rose and Loretta. They were on a noticeably heightened state of alert for many days. On June 28, just 6 days after Rose and Loretta were returned to the Elkmont area of GSMNP, Little Bit returned to the wild in the Cades Cove area. She was the 38th young bear so far during 2012 to be helped by ABR and given a second chance. She returned to her wild home healthy and strong, weighing 33 pounds. The soft mast foods she was accustomed to receiving at ABR were

HUGE WEEKENDS IN TOWNSEND

On Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th, ABR Volunteers and Supporters were out in force in Townsend, Tennessee. ABR hosted the third annual Black Bear Expo at Trillium Cove Shopping Center and participated with a booth at the Old Timer's Festival at the Visitors Center. Little Townsend was filled with visitors to celebrate bears and to celebrate the traditions and heritage of the area.

For those of you who haven't visited our town, the



Julie Kennedy telling a family about bear scat.

Visitors Center hosts a spring and a Fall Old Timer's Festival each year. Music is a highlight. Musicians come from far and wide to jam with others. You can hear and enjoy some of the best Appalachian music around as you walk through the Festival grounds. You won't be hungry, as there are plenty of terrific food options. Artists participate and present their works. You can join in with storytelling sessions, singing sessions, basket making and many other activities. The ABR cubs are also well represented. Many visitors



David Whitehead of TWRA showing a bear trap.

stopped by to learn about bears and bear safety. Many shared their stories of seeing bears in the National Park and sometimes at the cabins they rented! As usual, seeing a bear is a highlight for visitors to the Smokies. Thanks to the many supporters who stopped by the ABR tent to share stories and donate to support the ABR cubs.

The third annual Black Bear Expo was a popular event this year. It featured music by the Ross Brothers and the spirited J Creek Cloggers providing heel-clicking entertainment for visitors. There were demonstrations by Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Tennessee Wildlife



GSMNP Ranger Bill Stiver had a great time educating visitors.

Resources Agency. Local artists and authors displayed their talents and offered their creative products for sale. One area featured several games for children, including fly casting demonstration and instruction



DiAnne Wilson watches a video with a group of curious children.



Dana Dodd informs visitors about the work done by ABR.

by Little River Outfitters. Camping was addressed with a demonstration of good and bad campsite setups, and Allen's Welding displayed bearproof garbage containers. Sweet Smoky Mountain Barbecue provided delicious

food. ABR volunteers were on hand to educate visitors about bears and how ABR rehabilitates injured and orphaned bear cubs.

ABR participated in another weekend event in Townsend: Troutfest, on May 19th and 20th. Cyndie and Warren Cornelius, two of our volunteers and supporters, generously donated their table space inside the main tent for our use. Board members and volunteers staffed the ABR education and information table. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed learning about Appalachian Bear Rescue.



The J Creek Cloggers provided great entertainment



Joey Holt (L) relates camping information.

THE BLACK BEAR CUB

MORE SCIENTIFIC FACTS (LIKE IT, OR NOT)

By Ben Seven

In the first installment of this soon-to-be prize winning scientific paper, we learned that with keen observation (mine) we could ascertain the true nature of The Black Bear Cub. Using the strict protocols outlined in my book, *Strict Protocols for the Scientific Observation of Baby Animals and Neighbors*, we learned many startling true facts about The Black Bear Cub (*Ursus Cuteis*). I don't recall any of them, but I'm sure you do.

The Black Bear Cub: Social Structure

The cubs of Appalachian Bear Rescue live within the confines of a strict monarchy. At the top is the Sovereign, usually of the female persuasion, who rules with a firm paw. At the bottom of the social hierarchy... you know, speaking of "bottom", a fellow scientist on Facebook (where most scientists are found) pointed out that the proper name for a cubby tail is a "nubbin". Thank you for correcting my error...in public. Really. I mean that. Thank you.

Where was I? Oh, at the bottom of the social hierarchy are the common cubs, identified by their disregard of safety regulations, speed signs, or common good manners. They are an unruly bunch! Careful study of at least three videos shows The Sovereign Cub "mothering" these miscreants, regardless of their bad behaviour. Now, I'm not one to give advice on parenting, but lollygagging is not to be encouraged in the young of any species. Baby Black Bear Cubs are notorious lollygaggers, often falling asleep in their yogurt, or on beds of blackberries. From this, we may conclude that the incidence of juvenile delinquency among the Black Bear Cub population is very high.

The Black Bear Cub: Their Culture

Even the most casual viewer of Appalachian Bear Rescue's videos and photos will know that Black Bear Cubs favor the Arts: music, dance, drama, and literature figure prominently in their daily life. The Cubbies of ABR are a musical people, famous for their blues songs. You will surely remember this, one of my personal favorites: ♪Ma-Maaaaaa-Maaaaaaaaaaaaa-Ma♪. And this one ♪mmmmmaaa-maa-MAAAAAAAAAAAAA♪, one of the happier tunes in the cub repertoire!

There is dissension in the scientific community regarding cubby dance: I say that cubs trip the light fantastic, others say they're clumsy, and just trip. I say that cubs are given to dancing at the drop of an acorn; others say that they're just beating each other up. The discussion can be heated: at the professional symposiums I've attended, invited or not (mostly not), I've been known to shout, "Consider the Tango! It began with the Black Bear Cub!" It's hard to hear responses while one is being dragged out by security guards, but I'm sure I convinced many of my colleagues: Black Bear Cubs dance!

That Black Bear Cubs are well versed in drama is hardly worth mentioning; we need only think of cubs jockeying for



position in a tree, thirty feet above the ground, to understand what "farcical" really means. Consider their reaction to a bowl emptied of applesauce, and you will know "tragedy". It's my theory that William Shakespeare's greatest plays were written after his little known trip to Tennessee in the late sixteenth century. How else could he have captured the essence of cubby drama in his work unless he'd visited the site of Appalachian Bear Rescue, and observed Black Bear Cubs first hand?

Oh, the Black Bear Cubs of ABR could give Will a run for his money, if only they knew how to write! The high rate of illiteracy in the cubby population can be attributed to two things: keyboards are not designed for paws, and the lollygagging I mentioned earlier. I'm not one to say, "I told you so", but I did shout as I watched them on my computer screen. "Practice your reading and writing, cubs, or you won't be admitted to a College of your choice!" They didn't listen. I told them so.

I must end this here; I'm running out of paper, and I can't buy more, but not for the lack of government funding, as you might suspect. I understand how busy governments are these days, so I thought I'd save them some time by printing my own money. It's funny how quickly they took notice. They've been quite nice about it, even jovial; they laugh a lot when I tell them my theories. They say I need solitary confinement, and I couldn't agree more; this sort of work needs solitude. I've been given a very nice room to continue my research. It's quiet, with soft walls, but not very solitary; I share my room with a mouse. He's not much for talking, so I'm not sure what branch of scientific research he's pursuing. But, he is a good listener, and the ears he listens with remind me of a Black Bear Cub I saw at ABR. I wonder if they're related. I'll have to ask.

BEAR TRACKS



ABR

2012 BEAR-LY EDIBLES & AUCTION SEPTEMBER 21

ABR will host the Bear Necessities Bear-ly Edibles & Auction fundraising event in Townsend again this year. The event will be held at the Barn Event Center of the Smokies on Friday, September 21, 2012. As part of our auction, we offer items donated by generous supporters, businesses, and artists. If you would consider donating an item for this auction, please contact us at 865-448-0143 or by email at appbearrescue@gmail.com. Bear Necessities is our signature event for raising funds to provide care for the cubs in need. We hope to see you in Townsend in September! Invitations will be sent out in mid-August. Reservations can be made by RSVP card, online, or by phone.

LOOKING FOR A QUICK AND EASY WAY TO HELP A HUNGRY CUB?

amazon.com



We always appreciate gift card donations and we've posted a wish list at Amazon.com. Search for "Wish List for Appalachian Bear Rescue" to find many ways to help ABR.

Appalachian Bear Rescue
presents
2012 Bear Necessities
Bear-ly Edibles & Auction

Place: *The Barn Event Center of the Smokies
Townsend, Tennessee*

Date: *Friday, September 21, 2012*

Time: *6:00 p.m.*

Save the Date



For more information: abrTN.org or 865-448-0143

Watch us grow on the ABR Blog & Facebook...and thank you!



<http://shop.cafepress.com/appalachian-bear-rescue>



Unique Gifts!
Follow this QR code to
discover ABR-themed gift
items!

AppalachianBearRescue.org/donations.htm

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Any donation, large or small, helps ABR to continue helping the orphaned bear cubs. Thank you so much for all your generous support.

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