

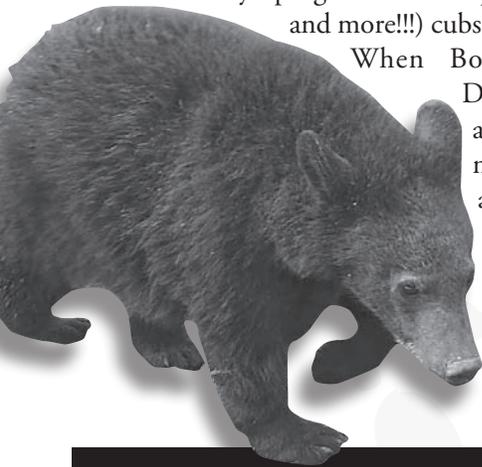
BEAR TRACKS

ABR'S WILD SIDE RESIDENTS RELEASED TO THE WILD WORLD

by Lisa Stewart

On a chilly December morning, TWRA trucks rolled onto the ABR site loaded with officers and transport cages...it was release day for some of ABR's healthiest and largest cubs of the 2011 season! The ABR cub season began with its first admittance on March 20th as tiny Bobby Brier arrived weighing only 3 pounds. ABR's Facebook page allowed supporters to watch Bobby's progress as he was joined by more (and more and more!!!) cubs needing ABR's assistance.

When Bobby was released on December 19th, he weighed a whopping 144 pounds... now, that's a lot of grapes, apples, and acorns! Bobby learned quickly that the best way to grow the largest is to become Alpha Cub...and don't share the food! Obviously, Bobby was at the top of the



After a record-breaking year at ABR, many rehabilitated cubs were ready to be released to their new wild homes.

INSIDE BEAR TRACKS

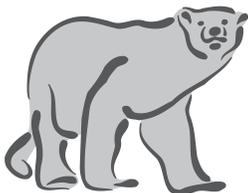
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pecking order, but he did display compassion and comradery, though in the most comical ways! (Visit the news archives with pictures at www.Facebook.com/AppalachianBearRescue.)

The 2011 cub season saw a record number of orphans...33 cubs were admitted to ABR's facility throughout the year. The most failure during the year placed a severe hardship on sows trying to raise their young. The desperate search for food put bears in dangerous situations causing many to suffer encounters with traffic and hunters. The result had wildlife officers rescuing family units and admitting twins and triplets, as well as lone cubs, to ABR for immediate care. As the admittance numbers increased, ABR supporters rallied and donated money, food, supplies and equipment needed to care for the cubs and provide all the essentials they required to grow and thrive.

As Facebook followers read news of Bobby's admittance, along with Ham and Sissy and the many cubs that followed, they watched videos and viewed pictures of the tiny cubs

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APPALACHIAN BEAR RESCUE
P.O. BOX 364
TOWNSEND, TN 37892

ABR WELL-REPRESENTED AT WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK



Betty Jones (left) and Dawn Gillis were on hand to answer questions about what it takes to raise a healthy cub.

Wilderness Wildlife Week is an annual event for outdoor aficionados and wildlife enthusiasts. It is held each January in Pigeon Forge TN. This was the 22nd year for the event, which took place from January 7th to 14th. Appalachian Bear Rescue was well represented at this weeklong event and attracted the attention and interest of the hundreds of people who attended. ABR had a popular display table in the Exhibit Hall that was staffed by several board members and volunteers. Here are some of the volunteers who staffed the table, talking to visitors about ABR and bears.



Janet Dalton (left) and Krystee Conaway with ABR's vast display of all things ursine.

Displays included a photo board with pictures of our 2011 cubs, bear fur, a bear skull, track casts, claw models, and a variety of scat samples. Visitors were invited to take brochures and other handouts. There were games for children to enjoy. One of the highlights in our display was a DVD of ABR cubs and Bear Facts, produced by our own Mike Stewart. We offered a copy of the DVD for a donation to ABR. Other gifts for donors included hand-carved plaques, our activity book for kids,



Joey Holt (behind the table on the left), Marci Spencer (middle) and Dawn Gillis shared their knowledge with attendees.

T-shirts, bumper stickers, small, stuffed bears, and handmade puzzles.

New this year were the adoption packets for visitors who wished to "adopt" one of our cubs. These kits, prepared by volunteer coordinator Dawn Gillis, were popular with grandparents who wanted to give their grandchildren a cub to adopt. There will be information about this adoption program on the website and blog soon. Watch for it!

In addition to staffing the display table, volunteers presented 5 programs during the week. Lisa gave a program about Appalachian Bear Rescue and how we care for cubs. The "Bear Ladies" presented PowerPoint programs about coexistence between humans and bears, and the evolution of bears. In addition, they gave 2 hands-on programs for children to learn about bears. Joey Holt, volunteer and board member, led 2 hikes and presented the "Hug a Tree" program to teach children how to be found if separated from their family in the woods.

Wilderness Wildlife Week was hugely successful, as usual, and was enjoyed by all who attended. If you missed WWW this year, do plan to attend in 2013. The dates for next year are already set: January 12-19. We hope we'll see you there!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CUBS!

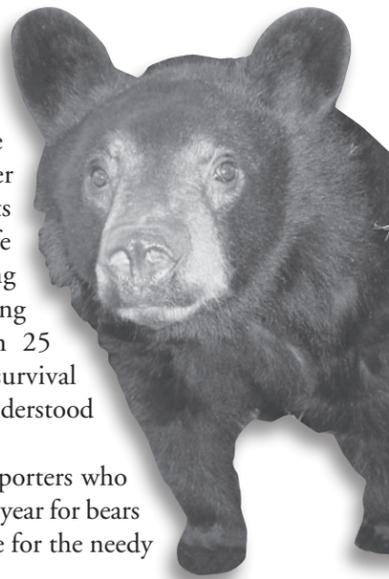


by Lisa Stewart

January has already come and gone. The new year is in full swing and ABR is still admitting cubs...oops, they are "yearlings" now! In the wild, bear cubs are born to sows nestled in their winter dens. During the month of January each year, a sow will give birth to two tiny cubs and nurture them through the winter months. In recent years, sows' litters have been larger yielding triplets and even quadruplets. At birth, the wee ones may weigh only 8-10 ounces each. When a sow emerges from her winter den in April to introduce her young to the real world for the first time, the cubs usually weigh around 5-10 pounds.



In January, 2012, ABR admitted 6 small yearlings. It was very distressing to see such tiny yearlings arriving at ABR when a month earlier we were releasing cubs that weighed over 100 pounds each. The elements of nature worked against wildlife last year and we are still seeing the negative effects by admitting yearlings that weigh less than 25 pounds each...what stories of survival they could all tell, if only we understood bear language!



Many thanks to all of our supporters who helped to make 2011 a successful year for bears at ABR and who will help us care for the needy bears of 2012...and beyond!!

PLEASE HELP!
We want to be "Chubby Cubby"s, too!

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



ABR'S WILD SIDE RESIDENTS RELEASED TO THE WILD WORLD

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

enjoying their bottled formula and comforting each other after every meal. The cubs were contained in small "cribs" until they grew large enough to enter ABR's "Wild Side" which is a one-acre, natural enclosure that allows orphaned cubs to have a safe experience as they learn to forage and hone their skills. The cubs displayed amazing abilities as they overcame losses, hardships, trauma and injury. ABR was glad to be able to share success stories with supporters as tiny, depleted cubs overcame the effects of severe malnutrition and dehydration. One cub even quickly

recovered from a concussion after he was hit by a car and left unconscious on the side of the highway. We all watched as tiny female cubs developed early maternal instincts...they forgot about their own needs and displayed protective behavior toward smaller, more frightened cubs that needed comfort and guidance. New family units were formed and those units are continuing to grow as more bears are admitted in the 2012 season.

The 2011 cubs steadily progressed and many were ready for release in November, while others waited for the December release

date. TWRA officers and NPS Rangers successfully released 17 larger cubs at yearend and opted to allow the remaining smaller cubs to have more time to grow and prepare for spring, 2012 releases. The remaining cubs are wintering in dens, but still welcoming newcomers...six bears have already been admitted in 2012!

ABR appreciates its supporters who help in so many ways to further its important mission! ABR is also grateful for the expertise of wildlife and law enforcement officials who use

their skills to capture needy cubs and admit them to ABR; and, later release the bears to their wild habitat. Working together, we all ensure that ABR continues its mission of "giving bears a second chance!"



One dozen bears and counting! Many replenished cubs waited their turn to be processed and released.



A quiet moment of comradery before the fun begins!

AS SIMPLE AS ONE—TWO—THREE!



When it's time to release our furry charges into the wild, all bears are tranquilized, weighed and tagged so they can be carefully observed over the coming years. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) representatives take excellent care of every customer!



Cubs are fed food that is similar to the types they will find when released.



The cubs are given an environment that closely resembles their future wild homes.



Climbing is good exercise for cubs preparing for release into the wild.



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.



Have You Heard the Latest?

Grrreat News that Bears Repeating!

DWCF AWARDS ABR \$5,000 GRANT

Appalachian Bear Rescue received a \$5,000 grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund to aid with food costs for the record number of bear cubs admitted to its facility in 2011.

Each year, the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund sets aside dollars for emergency funding in response to urgent environmental or conservation needs. The money comes from Disney, park guests and the Disney Friends for Change program.



Thanks to Our Facebook Friends, ABR Finished in the Top 20 in Chase Community Giving Contest

The Chase Community Giving Contest Ended on 11/22/2011. Appalachian Bear Rescue landed in the Top 20 and received a \$25,000 grant!! Thank you for your votes, Facebook Friends!!



FOLLOW OUR CUBS' PROGRESS!
www.facebook.com/AppalachianBearRescue



NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKES THEIR PLACE FOR 2012

On January 16, 2012, elections were held which named the new ABR Board of Directors as follows:

Executive Committee

- Dana Dodd President
- Thomas Faulkner Vice President
- Anne Allison Vice President
- Curtis Minhinnett Treasurer
- Kathy Sherrard Secretary

Board Members

- Jack Burgin
- Jim Grooms
- Joey Holt
- Betty Jones
- Jennifer Kirkpatrick
- Anne Patrick

Curator Lisa Stewart

SAVE THE DATE!



The date has been set for the 3rd annual event! Black Bear Expo will be held at the shops of Trillium Cove in Townsend on Saturday, May 5th 2012.

- Learn how to coexist with bears.
- Learn about ABR and how we care for rescued cubs.
- Play educational games, listen to music,
- Meet ABR Board members, take a hike....

Fun for all!

A Big Bear Hug to...



We want to thank IGA and those who have supported the Chubby Cubby campaign. Our cubs are grateful for their full bellies and extend their appreciation for your continued help.



THE PERFECT WAY TO CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Valentine's Day is just around the corner! Is there room in your heart for our cubs? ABR is VERY pleased to announce that local Townsend business, The Chocolate B'ar, has graciously offered to support us again by offering the exclusive Appalachian Bear Rescue Collection.

Choose from the ABR Basket, Mandy's Den, Bear Head Cookies and much more! Show YOUR special someone that they have a "Beary" special place in your heart! A portion of your purchase will benefit our cubbies.

These gifts are great for Easter, Mother's Day, or any day you want to make memorable for someone who matters to you.

Visit <http://thelilybarnstore.com> or use the QR code below to shop for your sweetheart and support ABR!





DANA DODD NEW ABR BOARD PRESIDENT



ABR's new board president, Dana Dodd, is excited about assuming her new duties.

As we all know, Appalachian Bear Rescue is a special place. I found ABR a little over a year ago. I grew up in Tennessee, and vacationed in the Great Smoky Mountains with my family many times. I always wanted to know one thing...when will we see a BEAR? Fortunately, my parents loved the Park and honored the privilege that we all have to enjoy our National Parks. My Dad taught ecology in high school and took his ecology students to the Park every year so that class

after class could grow to know and love this great place and all the wild that it offers.

In an odd way, my Dad led me to ABR. He grows blackberries and blueberries on his farm in middle Tennessee. He offered the berries to the cubs, and I delivered to the donation barrel.

I gradually learned more about ABR's mission to take in orphaned and injured cubs and give them a second chance at a wild life. I joined the ABR Board of Directors in the summer. I'm now honored to serve as President of the Board of ABR. I am humbled knowing my teammates who have long worked for ABR's success. I am humbled by the hard work and dedication of our curator, Lisa Stewart, and our Facebook coordinator, Mike Stewart (Lisa's husband). Most important, I am grateful for the generosity of all who hold ABR dear. Without your support, we would not be able to do ABR's good work. We thank you for your kindness!

Back in early November, I had the chance to attend my first "release". I got to witness the release of our special HRH and her friends. It was an overwhelming day for me. I've seen bears for years, but this day, I saw a miracle. The cubs are magnificent animals. All of our cubs had a rough start in life, but they are mighty and healthy as they leave the ABR facility. As I watched the cubs run to greet their wild life, I knew this was special. I hope through our newsletters, our Facebook page, our Blog and our website, we are able to share the miracle with all of you.

<http://www.nutsonline.com/gifts/nutforbirds/appalachia-bear.html>

<http://www.nutsonline.com/gifts/nutforbirds/appalachia-bear.html>



DO Feed the Bears!
Follow this QR code to order
yummies for our cubbies!
tummies!

<http://shop.catepress.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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