

## CUBS AND KIDS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

When asked “Do you know what bears eat?” Children invariably say, “Fish!” We explain that while you often see bears eating fish on TV, our Smoky Mountain bears actually do not eat this food. This leads to the revelation that the primary source of meat for a black bear is insects. “Yuck!” exclaim the children. Recently, we tried a new technique to present bear foods as well as to reinforce the important rule that we should never feed bears. An education volunteer displayed two Happy Meal containers, and asked children to guess what was in the “Happy Meal for a Bear,” as well as the one for a child. This activity was popular and made the youngsters think about their answers.



because at the end of the game everyone gets to eat their markers!

It is our hope that children who have experienced an ABR education program will have a greater understanding of and respect for this icon of our mountain region. Perhaps the adults in their lives can learn from them about coexistence with bears.

Usually the class wants to help ABR by “adopting” a cub. We present the teacher with a photo of a cub and an “Adoption Certificate.” The children are asked to help with the cub’s care by collecting fruits and nuts to feed the cub. They often collect coins, as well, to help ABR buy additional foods. Children are encouraged to earn the coins by doing chores at home. Another activity is the hands-on display table of bear items. Included in the display are fur, a skull, a model claw, front and back paw track casts, and samples of bear scat from each season of the year. The children are invited to touch the items (not everyone wants to touch the scat).

If children are collecting items for the cubs, the volunteers return later to thank them by playing a “Bear Bingo” game. A volunteer made bingo cards with bear-related words (cub, acorns, trees, etc.) and each child uses gummy bears or Teddy Grahams to mark their bingo card. Everyone wins,

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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.  
[www.abrTN.org/donations.htm](http://www.abrTN.org/donations.htm)

## UPDATE – THE CUBS OF 2013

by Coy Blair, Head Curator

**E**ditor's note: The ABR curators refer to the cubs by their numbers, as do the wildlife officers. This is the scientifically correct designation. However, as you know, the cubs are also given names during their stay with us. For most of us, a name is easier to remember. When Coy wrote the article, he used only the scientifically accurate cub numbers. We have added the names to help the rest of us with identification.



In our last newsletter, a news flash informed you that Cub 190 (Boston Bear) had just arrived. He weighed only 3.5 pounds and was emaciated and dehydrated, which led to him being very lethargic and not vocal for two or three days. We immediately admitted him to the Cub Nursery and began giving him hydrating fluids as well as diluted formula via a needle-less syringe, one to two cc's at a time, around the clock. By the end of the first week, Boston was lapping formula from a bowl. A small, stuffed panda bear toy was placed into his crate with him to help ease the loneliness. Boston would progress fast and soon be outside. When he appeared to have gained his strength back, he was transported down to the bear area and kept inside an outdoor pen. Since

he was too small to be placed with the much larger South Carolina triplets in the Left Acclimation Pen, he had to be housed alone. However, “Panda” traveled with him.

On May 6, 2013, Cub 191 arrived. She was decent-sized but appeared to be extremely lethargic. There were no obvious signs of physical injuries and the cub did not appear to be emaciated, however, she could hardly stand up, and was unable to lap from a dish or suck a bottle so we gave her fluids with a needle-less syringe. The next morning she was transported to be examined by Dr. Ramsay, of the University of TN College of Veterinary Medicine. After extensive testing, Dr. Ramsay diagnosed her with severe hydrocephalus – where the ventricles of the brain fill with excessive amounts of cerebrospinal fluid (mayoclinic.com). Nature is harsh - we suspect that her mother left her behind due to her illness, with the survival of herself and her other cubs on her mind. With the cub's well-being in mind, the decision was made to humanely ease her struggles as she would not be able to survive in the wild. We are very grateful to the UT Veterinary School for their assistance when a cub needs medical care.

Twin cubs 192 (Oscar Bear) and 193 (Annie Bear) came to ABR on June 9, 2013. Oscar, a male, and Annie, a female, arrived dehydrated and slightly emaciated at approximate weights of 15 and 10 pounds, respectively. The cubs were

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APPALACHIAN BEAR RESCUE  
P.O. BOX 364  
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housed together in one of the outdoor perimeter pens down at the bear area. However, it appeared that Oscar was keeping Annie from eating her food. Oscar was observed snapping at the much smaller Annie while she was attempting to feed. Annie would retreat to the top of the culvert den inside the pen and lie down as her brother fed. Annie appeared to be in a weakened state, and something had to be done immediately. It was decided that the two cubs needed to be separated. First, Annie was transported to the Cub Nursery in order to ensure that the cub had access to plenty of food and ample time to gain her strength. She was fed a variety of foods and was given hydrating fluids overnight. Within 24 hours Annie was vocalizing, blowing, huffing and slapping. Now it was time to decide where to house her.

As we all know, bears are individuals – not all of them behave the same way. Boston had been observed playing gently with his buddy “Panda” for quite some time. Minus Panda, Boston had not been around another cub the whole time while at ABR. Therefore, Annie was placed in the adjacent half of a double pen to observe how she would get along with Boston. Immediately, they went to the divider and began touching noses. Boston was vocalizing in ways never heard before and appeared very satisfied with the decision to house Annie with him. After observing the two cubs for a good while to make sure there were no aggressive-type behaviors towards one another, the divider was pulled back and the two cubs came together. Boston chased Annie up to the top of a wooden platform; he was trying hard to make contact with her! Annie would playfully swat at Boston. Both cubs were later observed playing and eating together.

Oscar remained by himself for a short time, but was soon reunited with his sister Annie, and was introduced to Boston within the same month, in the Right Acclimation Pen. All three cubs would get along just fine and play and eat together for another two months in the acclimation pen until being introduced to Cubs 187-189 (Bennie, Jerry, Carrie) in the Left Wild Enclosure. Once in the Wild Enclosure, all six

cubs would wrestle, play fight, swim and chase one another until their release dates.

Female twins Cub 194 (Blossom Bear) and Cub 195 (Buttercup Bear) arrived at ABR in August, weighing only 11 and 11.5 pounds, respectively. They were emaciated and dehydrated and in need of some serious care. Both cubs were small for their ages and appeared slightly lethargic. The two females were housed in the Right Acclimation Pen together until they had built up enough strength to be released into the Right Wild Enclosure space. Blossom and Buttercup were joined by Cub 196 (Poppy Bear) in the Right Acclimation Pen shortly after their arrival. All three cubs were released into the Right Wild Enclosure space together, where they foraged and played for quite some time before being released back into the wild where they belong.

Cub 190 (Boston) was released on Oct. 9, 2013, and weighed approximately 64 pounds. Cub 192 (Oscar) and 193 (Annie) were released on Oct. 24, 2013, and weighed approximately 73 and 56.5 pounds, respectively. The South Carolina triplets Cubs 187 (Bennie), 188 (Jerry) and 189 (Carrie) were released during the first week of Nov. 2013. The cubs weighed approximately 105, 114, and 90 pounds, respectively. That calculates to net weight gains of approximately 102, 111, and 84.5 pounds, respectively! Cub 194 (Blossom) and 195 (Buttercup) were released on Dec. 3, 2013 and weighed approximately 70.5 and 73 pounds, respectively. Our last Cubby #196 (Poppy) Bear, gained a good amount of weight as well and was released from ABR on Dec. 14, 2013, weighing 84 pounds.

We hope that all of our cubs are safe and thriving and wish them the absolute best. We also hope they are all able to take their second chance at life and run with it. We will wait patiently and be ready for Cub 197 to arrive and look forward to watching as he or she grows just as the aforementioned cubs did and eventually darts out of its transport pen back into the wild where it belongs.

*To keep up with our cubs, or to view more photos of the cubs of 2013, please visit our Facebook page.*



Cub 194 (Blossom) and Cub 195 (Buttercup)



Cubs 193 and 192 (Annie and Oscar)



Cub 190 (Boston)

# APPALACHIAN BEAR RESCUE WINS CHRISTMAS FLOAT PRIZE!!!

ABR participated in the Gatlinburg “Festival of Lights” Parade on December 6, 2013 and came away a winner. Diana Green Pope came up with our float theme concept, “Have a Beary Merry Christmas,” and, after stringing lights too numerous to count and many volunteer hours later, we had an award-winning parade float. Parade night was dark and rainy, but ABR’s float lit up the way with banner walkers Robin and James Hearl, Brian Aylward a/k/a “Christmas Cub” waving to everyone from atop the float (being ably driven by Curator Coy Blair), and cub elves Patricia Mayhugh, Pat Chrisman, Cathy Shovelton, DiAnne Wilson, Dana Dodd and Amanda Hackworth waving and shouting greetings to the crowd.

Our float took first place in “Best Use of Lights” category and third place in “Best Original Entry.”

We’d especially like to thank and recognize Ed Owens and Coy Blair, who did all of the float construction and much of the float decoration.



Thanks to Suzanna Terrill, who brought Ed’s reindeer cutouts to life with her artistic talents. We appreciate so much the use of Jerry Cunningham’s beautiful vintage sleigh and, of course, the use of Tim McNutt’s heavy duty truck and truck bed, which were transformed into a magnificent spectacle.

Congratulations to our amazing ABR volunteers who participated in

the Gatlinburg Parade and/or float preparation: Tom Faulkner, Ed Owens, Rick Noseworthy, Coy Blair, Pat Chrisman, Kathy Sherrard, James Hearl, Robin Hearl, DiAnne Wilson, Cathy Shovelton, Patricia Mayhugh, Dana Dodd, Brian Aylward, Tom Brosch, Diana Pope Green, Amanda Hackworth, Janet Dalton and Suzanna Terrill.

The float was so special that on Sunday, December 15, we participated in another parade, the Townsend “Hometown Christmas Parade.” Once again, the ABR float was a winner. We were the first place float in this parade, also!

## WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK – JAN. 25-FEB. 1, 2014

Appalachian Bear Rescue has been a part of this free, annual event in Pigeon Forge, TN for many years. 2014 is the 24th year for this world class, award-winning event. We are proud to again be a part of Wilderness Wildlife Week, hosting an exhibit and offering several programs during the week. There is a complete list of the activities, including hikes, field trips, lectures, and workshops to be offered during the 8 days of the

event, on the My Pigeon Forge.com website. Click on Events, and then Wilderness Wildlife Week. If you are able to attend, please stop by and say hello. We will look forward to seeing you. If you have never attended before, we guarantee that you will enjoy it. If you have experienced WWW in the past, you know what an outstanding event it is. There is something for everyone and for every interest.

## FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

By Coy Blair

Great friends are hard to find. A great friend knows what you are passionate about and helps you during hard times. Most importantly, a great friend will help you with electrical work, make steps, spread gravel, work on fencing, work on the Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR) work truck, hang walls and ceilings, sort through hundreds of pounds of acorns, repair dens, organize tool buildings, construct water bars, create gravel pathways and cut away debris around structures and run the wood chipper. And they do these tasks knee deep in poison ivy and bear scat while being stung by insects! I would like to highlight some great friends of mine who have helped the ABR.

Cole Blair, my older brother, is a Sr. Technician at Charter Communications. Cole is an avid outdoorsman and can tell you about almost every animal in the woods. When we were young, he always had the patience to teach me about various plants and animals. Cole is married and spends his free time bass fishing on the lake.

Kevin Dailey has been friends with Cole and me since first grade. Kevin is a Deputy with the Blount County Sheriff's Office and has a degree in Diesel Technology and an Assoc. Degree from Pellissippi. He and his wife had their first child, a boy, in June.

Austin Henry, a long time friend, also works as a Sr. Technician at Charter Communications. Austin likes to hike, fish and camp. He and Cole are our "tech" friends and we rely on them to help with our computer-related issues.

Austin Green is my wife's first cousin and is a senior at Maryville High School. He is a member of the Blount County Explorers Program and wishes to go to college and work in law enforcement. He is a hard worker and is always willing to learn a new skill.

Terry Elmore works for the Maryville Housing Authority as an inspector. Terry adopted a section of the Appalachian Trail and works with young people to help maintain it. It is great that Terry devotes so much of his time to help get kids get outdoors and

## WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!



develop an appreciation for our natural world.

It was through Terry that I met three other great friends: Mac McNutt, Phyllis Henry and Stew Taylor. He also introduced me to two new volunteers, Albert Gavalton and Jesse Solis. Albert is the owner of a fitness facility, and Jesse is a student in Knox County; they are all very hard workers. I want to thank all of these great friends and all volunteers for helping the ABR. This is such a great organization, and we are very appreciative of all that you have helped us to accomplish. We know that you all will be here for us whenever we need a hand.



## 2013 BEAR NECESSITIES BEAR-LY EDIBLES AND AUCTION

ABR held our biggest fundraiser of the year on Friday, September 13th at The Barn Event Center in Townsend. It was a very LUCKY evening for ABR Cubs! All two hundred folks who attended agreed that it was a huge success! The weather was perfect – clear and cool, which was perfect for our indoor and outdoor venue. There were over 300 items in the silent and live auctions, so there was something for everyone.

Boogertown Gap again provided background music during the silent auction. Their wonderful Appalachian music created the perfect atmosphere for our cub-focused event.

The food was absolutely delicious, and displayed artistically. The Barn chefs outdid themselves again in preparing the "heavy hors d'oeuvres" that offered delights for every taste. The cheesecakes returned with rave reviews. How can you choose which one of over twenty flavors to sample?

This year, we were delighted to have reknowned artist Robert Tino as our guest. Robert painted live at the event. He created a very special portrait of our Boston Bear. The painting was auctioned in the live auction and brought spirited competition from our guests. The cubs and all of us at ABR sincerely thank Robert for his time and talent.

In addition to the successful live and silent auctions, our supporters joined together to help ABR kick off our Wild Enclosure Campaign. You can read about our campaign in this newsletter.



The hard work of all who volunteered their time and talents was worth it, as the event was the best ever for ABR and the cubs! Bear Necessities did indeed provide the needed necessities to give our cubs a second chance at a wild life.

Many thanks to all of our sponsors, auction donors, guests, volunteers and others who made the night a great success! Please SAVE THE DATE of Friday, September 19th, 2014!!!! We will hold Bear Necessities 2014 in Townsend again. Join us, along with Boogertown Gap and Robert Tino to celebrate the cubs of 2014. We hope to see all of you in Townsend!

## CUBS AND KIDS

A major part of the Appalachian Bear Rescue mission is education. In 2013, volunteers presented many programs at schools in the area – from preschool to middle school. We also give programs for groups such as Scouts and others. Children of all ages are excited when we visit, since bears are a favorite animal of all ages. During 2013, ABR presented education programs for more than a dozen schools and children's activity groups.

A typical children's program goes something like this... The presenters introduce Appalachian Bear Rescue by showing video footage of our cubs and/or using a display board with photos of the cubs and the facility.

One volunteer enlarged an aerial view of ABR to poster size, and outlined key features (the Cub Nursery, Wild Enclosures, Acclimation pens, etc.) with brightly colored yarn, so that as we tell about the cubs and their habitat at ABR, these areas can be pointed out to the children.

Next, we discuss the life cycle and natural history of bears. The age of the children dictates this part of the presentation; the younger the group, the simpler and more basic the information given. We use an interactive method, asking questions that the children can answer, and challenging them to think of problems that bears face when they live near our communities, and ways that humans can help keep bears safe.

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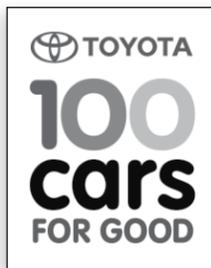
# ABR NAMED WINNER IN TOYOTA 100 CARS FOR GOOD PROGRAM

*Toyota Donates Vehicles to Local Nonprofit Organizations Based on Public Votes*

Appalachian Bear Rescue was named a winner in Toyota's 100 Cars for Good program, which awarded new vehicles to 100 nonprofit organizations based on votes from the public from Oct. 1 – Nov. 19, 2013. On Monday, January 6th, ABR received a brand new Toyota Tundra from Fox Toyota in Clinton, Tennessee. We are proud that we could accept delivery of our fabulous new truck from our friends at Fox Toyota. Mr. Ronnie Fox and his staff are long-time supporters of the cubs at ABR.

Toyota's 100 Cars for Good program showcases five nonprofit organizations each day for 50 days at [www.100carsforgood.com](http://www.100carsforgood.com). Visitors to the page may cast up to two votes per day for different organizations to select the organizations they feel are most deserving of a new Toyota vehicle.

Appalachian Bear Rescue received the most votes and was named a winner of a new Toyota Tundra, which will be used to haul healthy food for bear cubs, and take cubs in need of medical attention to the veterinary hospital.



Over the past two years of the program, Toyota has provided 200 non-profits with new vehicles to support their work in the areas of disabled services, youth and educational programs, environmental services, veteran services, housing and disaster relief, among many others. For more information, visit [www.100carsforgood.com](http://www.100carsforgood.com).

Appalachian Bear Rescue THANKS Toyota for the very, very generous donation of the Toyota Tundra!!!

# ABR'S WILD ENCLOSURE CAMPAIGN

Appalachian Bear Rescue has announced a very important new initiative. We need your support to double our bears' wild enclosure space.

In 2011, our organization cared for 33 orphaned and injured bear cubs. In March of 2012, thirty-five cubs called Appalachian Bear Rescue their temporary home. We did what we had to do for these starving and recovering cubs, but our facility was not built to house thirty-five cubs. Realistically, we can safely care for only twenty cubs in our current space.

2011 brought a catastrophic failure of the hard mast crop in our area. This crop includes the acorns and nuts that our bears and other wildlife depend on for survival. History tells us that this sort of failure will occur again, and large numbers of cubs will need our help again. That is why we need your help now to prepare to care for the increased demand we will surely see. Otherwise, we may have to turn away starving cubs at the exact time when they need us most.



Appalachian Bear Rescue wants to double the wild enclosure space over this winter. We must prepare the land, install proper fencing, establish additional water sources, create dens, and provide proper access for our curators to care for the bear cubs. Winter is the best time of year to do this work in order to minimize disturbances to our bears, and a local business has offered a generous discount if we can start the work in January. With your support, we can embark on this important project, which will cost approximately \$120,000.

While we write to you about fences and acres, this project is really all about the bears. We must be ready for every cub that needs our care. We do not want to turn away a starving cub or yearling because we lack fences and acres. With your generous donation of \$100 or more to our Wild Enclosure Campaign, you will ensure that we can say "YES, WE ARE HERE!" to all the cubs that need our care. Thank you for whatever you can do to make this project a success. Please make a donation today at [www.appalachianbearrescue.org](http://www.appalachianbearrescue.org).

## FROM A MINOR URSA TO AN URSA MAJOR!

*By Joel G. Zachry, M.S.*

Remember that lame old joke, "What's a henweight?" – About two pounds.

It is difficult to imagine that among our earth's largest land carnivores, the black bear weighs less than a pound at birth, but as an adult could have run the 2013 Super Bowl record return of 108 yards in eleven seconds by Jacoby Jones three times faster!

Brown bears of Alaska's Kodiak coastal regions lay claim to being the largest of land carnivores standing as much as ten feet tall and sometimes weighing a hefty 1,500 pounds as adult males. While polar bears of the arctic region are still larger they are not considered land carnivores as they spend much of their lives on ice floes for access to their

main prey, the ringed seal ([polarbearsinternational.org](http://polarbearsinternational.org)).

Black bear cubs begin as a fertilized egg around the middle of summer, but there is more to that story than simple placental implantation and development (Jim Becker, NPS). Based on body size and condition, the female becomes sexually active at two years of age and generally breeds every other year (Mass. Fish & Game). Males and females mate indiscriminately, and once that intimate moment has passed the male moves on in search of other receptive females leaving the impregnated sow to raise the newborn as a single parent.

With fall approaching, the female must put on a four-inch fat layer from available mast and as an opportunistic carnivore in order to survive the coming winter in her den and to enable the fertilized egg to find its place for development within the placental wall. Heretofore, the blastocyst's journey has been one of arrested embryonic development, or simply put, delayed implantation.

Soft mast consisting of mostly berries and fruits, quickly gives way to fall's hard mast crop of acorns and other assorted nuts. Both soft and hard mast production from

season to season is cyclic and a failure in these vital food sources triggers a spontaneous abortion or miscarriage for the expectant female. Consider it nature's way of saying, "You just can't make it through winter in your condition and raise a family too."

Around the first of December, driven more by the ambient temperature and scarcity of food, the female finds a suitable den site and begins the "long winter's nap." More appropriately termed torpor, or a sleeping state from which a bear may be easily aroused, is not characterized by a dramatic drop in body temperature common to hibernation (Becker and Robert Leo Smith). 45 to 55 days later frail, vulnerable cubs born both hairless and blind seek one of their mother's six functional mammarys and immediately begin suckling.

Newborns range in numbers from 1 to 4 and litters of five or more have been observed. Gaining weight quickly on milk that has a high fat content (upwards of 33%) cubs are generally born in a sex ratio of 1:1, however, the mother's weight and litter size play a role. Amazingly, as much as fifty pounds of milk may be metabolized from the mother's body

fat and is nearly twice as high in kilocalories as cow's or human's milk (Mass. Fish & Game).

As spring approaches and cubs gain considerable strength, the family ventures further from the safety of the den site as these cubs-of-the-year quickly learn survival skills and mimic every move and gesture of their mother. When danger is detected a series of abrupt sounds from the mother, always nearby, ushers the cubs up the nearest tree until the threat departs or is appropriately neutralized.

Though the survival rate approaches fifty percent, surviving cubs, now termed yearlings, enter the den site their first fall with their mothers. Emerging the following year, larger and more capable of making it on their own, they are abruptly dispatched to establish their own home ranges prior to their mother coming into heat and accepting a new mate. And thus, the cycle continues as it has for thousands of years.

*Joel G. Zachry is an ABR board member and past president and author of Bears We've Met – Short Stories of Close Encounters.*