

Dear Guests,

Welcome to the mountains! Whatever the season, it's a beautiful time of the year! Black bears celebrate spring by coming out of hibernation and, in the fall, they are stocking up on calories for the coming winter. That is why I am writing you this note.

We have had a few local black bear sightings. The NC Wildlife Commission will no longer remove black bears from their location unless they become a danger. However, they do share the following ideas of how we can co-exist:

Preventing Problems with Black Bears

To prevent problems with bears, **do not unintentionally feed them:**

- **Secure bags containing edible food scraps** inside cans stored in a garage, basement or other secure area. Bears are attracted to food odors and may investigate.
- **Take bags of trash which contain food scraps to the local dump site** on a frequent basis.
- **If a bear is in the area, remove all bird feeders, including hummingbird feeders**, even those advertised as "bear proof."

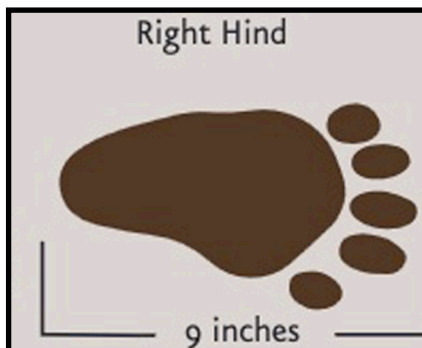
If you want to use hummingbird feeders, please bring them in every night. Our neighbors have seen, first hand, bears trying to remove their feeders during the middle of the night.

- **Avoid "free-feeding" pets outdoors.**
Do not leave pet foods out overnight. If you must feed pets outdoors, make sure all food is consumed and empty bowls are removed.
- **Clean all food and grease from barbecue grill** after each use.
- **Do not leave food items in your vehicles.**

A reminder: Bears are attracted to food odors and may investigate.

If you already have a problem with a bear:

- **Try repellents, but don't rely on them.** There are no repellents that are registered for use on bears. Sprinkling ammonia or other strong disinfectants on garbage can mask the odor of food.
- **Frighten the bear.** Shouting, clapping, blasting a car horn or motion-sensitive lights may scare off a bear temporarily.
- **Leave the bear alone.** Crowds of people can unnerve a bear, causing it to act unpredictably. The crowd should disperse and allow the bear to move on undisturbed.



According to Cherokee legend, the bear is the keeper of dreams.