

## LIVING RESPONSIBLY IN BEAR COUNTRY IS EASY

- Keep garbage secured and out of a bear's reach
- Choose to watch wild animals without feeding them
- Start a campaign to refrain from feeding birds during months with high bear activity
- Remember that clean barbeque grills don't invite unwanted guests
- Feed pets indoors or quickly clean up bowls and excess food
- Dispose of food items in the trash and not your compost pile
- Pick garden vegetables, fruits and berries promptly when ripe so you can enjoy them before a bear does
- Talk to family and neighbors when bear activity is occurring in your area
- Close car and house windows when you are away.



[NCWILDLIFE.ORG/BEAR](http://NCWILDLIFE.ORG/BEAR)



ROY KORTUS

DOUG BROWN



DID YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN  
**BEAR  
COUNTRY?**



Help Protect Our Mountain  
Treasure by Keeping  
NC Bears Wild



LARRY LAMB



GEORGE OSTROUCHOV

## THE BEAR FACTS:

- NC has 16,000–18,000 black bears
- Black bears are native to NC
- Black bears are normally shy and fear people
- Bears are omnivorous and eat just about anything
- Bears can smell food from more than a mile away
- Bears can be active year-round in NC, but May–July is the peak season

Bears are attracted to people by only one thing—FOOD! Fortunately, people are not on a black bear’s menu!

## HUMAN SOURCES OF FOOD:

- Garbage
- Bird and other wildlife feeders
- Barbeque grills
- Discarded table scraps
- Pet food
- Gardens
- Compost piles
- Unsecure food in cars and homes



## NEVER FEED A BEAR, INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY

If you see a bear during your visit to NC, enjoy the unique experience but don’t approach or feed it. Feeding teaches bears to not fear humans. Fed bears associate people with food and oftentimes become a nuisance when they overstay their welcome. Many fed bears are killed each year because they become too bold. Help protect this NC treasure by enjoying black bears at a distance and keeping them wild.

**REMEMBER,  
A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!**