Bears in "The Georgian Highlands"

Our concern for **'how *to deal with the black bears population* '**in the north Georgia Mountains lead us to a discussion with the authorities of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). They have produced a very valuable publication that describes the natural instincts of the black bear and how to live in harmony with the black bears of the southern Appalachian Mountains.

Bears feed on what ever is easily and readily available to them as a food source. By feeding a bear, an association of food with human develops. Once they find this to be the easy way to find their food source, they become day active and studies show that this association invariable leads to their death.

Hence feeding a bear intentionally or unintentionally is the worst disservice we can do to them. Unintentional acts include leaving garbage outside, leaving a camp site with left over food, not cleaning up the barbeque grill after an outside cook-out, leaving pet food out in the yard.

We are mailing our current residents a copy of the DNR publication with a request to read it carefully and follow their recommended guidelines meticulously. We will be glad to mail our non-residents a copy of this publication upon request (call 706-268-2975 and request a copy). The publication is of importance to those who camp out on their lots over the holidays.

Here are some important reminders:

Never leave food or garbage outside the home or on the deck.

Bears love bird seed more than birds and a sure way to invite the bear is to leave bird seed feeders outside the home. The same goes for pet food.

Clean grill and spray ammonia after an outdoor barbecue party.

There is a safe way to live in harmony with the wildlife in the mountains. At The Georgian Highlands where "Nature is your amenity" we encourage everybody to live with minimal interference to the wild life. All it requires is a good understanding of the way we can share our nature with the wild life and approach it in a disciplined manner.

The Georgian Highlands