

# Living with Bears in Saddle Ridge

Bears are an important part of this beautiful place we call home. They are always here in the woods, living their bear lives and keeping their distance, so we rarely see them. During the months of July through September sightings of bears are reported more frequently because they are very actively out and about looking for food. If they find easy food around homes, they quickly lose their natural fear of humans. Once they start associating humans with food, it is difficult to get bears back to their natural instinct to avoid humans. Contacting TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) is the last resort for handling nuisance bears. Sadly, a fed bear is a dead bear.

Every resident can help the community and the bears get through these periods of high bear activity.

## **DON'T ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET CLOSE**

We can all help by making sure that there is no easy food for them:

- Do not feed the bears
- Remove bird feeders (including hummingbird feeders)
- Make sure there is no garbage food, pet food or composting food anywhere around your house
- Keep your BBQ grill clean and free from grease or store it inside
- Don't leave food in your car.

## **DISCOURAGE THEM IF THEY DO GET CLOSE**

Get an air-horn or noise-making device so that if you see a bear around your house, you can scare it off and help retrain it to not approach humans in their habitat.

## **BE AWARE**

Attacks by bears are very rare, but nuisance bears are thinking of one thing – find food and/or protect cubs, and you don't want to be the main thing keeping them from either.

- Look and listen if you are outside, carry an air horn while out hiking
- If you see a bear, don't approach it
- Don't run - that will only trigger the bear to chase you.
- Back away slowly, make noise, blast air horns, shout, wave your arms, look as big and unfriendly as possible.

If you do have a bear encounter, report it to the SRPOA Board at [saddleridgepoa@gmail.com](mailto:saddleridgepoa@gmail.com) or contact a Board Member.

## **Saddle Ridge POA**

last updated 24 July 2016