

## The BEAR League Buzz

March 2021

Issue #37

# Every Day at BEAR League Headquarters

The BEAR League's commitment to bears is multi-faceted, and never-ending. For almost 25 years now we have been working 24/7, all year long, in any way possible to help the bears (and other wildlife) and to assist people who live or visit Bear Country in hopes of furthering our Mission: *People Living in Harmony with Bears.*

Besides rescue work, outreach, bear/wildlife advocacy, introducing wildlife to young hearts, etc etc, we also answer thousands and thousands of phone calls on the Bear Hot-Line.

During our busy season---spring, summer, fall---we easily answer 150 calls a day. Although some of these calls can be extremely disturbing, we realize each time the phone rings it is an opportunity to **educate**---and perhaps **enlighten**---someone.



photo by Dwayne Hicks

At first, our new interns and volunteers can be reduced to tears or angered beyond comprehension by what some people say on the phone. We constantly remind them, *“Do Not take it personally, they don't even know you. It is their fear that's talking, not their respectability.”*

When people are afraid they simply can't think straight. Fear cancels common sense. A case in point: A family puts their trash out on the deck so they

don't have to take it to the bear box until it is more convenient for them, then they forget all about it and two days later a bear comes to dine. The father is furious and demands that we come immediately and 'remove' the bear. He angrily screams that he will “kill the g\*d^m bear” to protect his family. We politely try to encourage the man to pound on the window or door from inside and gruffly yell at the bear,

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rather than allow him to profit until we can get there. The guy is not having any of that. Very quickly we understand that he is terrified of the bear, ashamed and defensive due to the mistake he made by leaving the trash outside the door and clueless about the true nature of black bears (they are not man-eating monsters). So, we jump into ‘gentle and understanding mode’... all while he is cursing at us, threatening to shoot the bear and having a literal psychotic melt-down. This is not easy to deal with, especially for our new volunteers.

We quickly text the address to our closest nearby trained field responder while we continue to try and coach this man over the phone... in hopes of calming him down so he doesn’t kill the bear or have a heart attack. We soon get a text back that the bear is gone but there is trash and recycle debris scattered all over the deck, so we know for sure that the bear was inadvertently ‘invited’ to come for dinner. Now, we must attempt to politely and diplomatically explain this to the guy on the phone without further putting him on the defensive.

Sometimes we accomplish our goal.... other times we are told to head straight to a hot and unpleasant ‘otherworld’. The wins make the losses tolerable.... So we keep doing our best, every time the phone rings.

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“Hunters are conservationists? Then why do they pay to kill rather than simply donate to preserve?”

---Harold Travers

“Keep your love of Nature, for that is the true way to understand art more and more”

--- Vincent Van Gogh

## Bear League Sponsorship Program



Wendy Trabert

Welcome, Wendy Trabert Photography

One of Wendy’s beautiful photos

**‘A Mother’s Love’**

wendytrabertphotography.com



# From the Bear Den



Bears and Tree Huggers

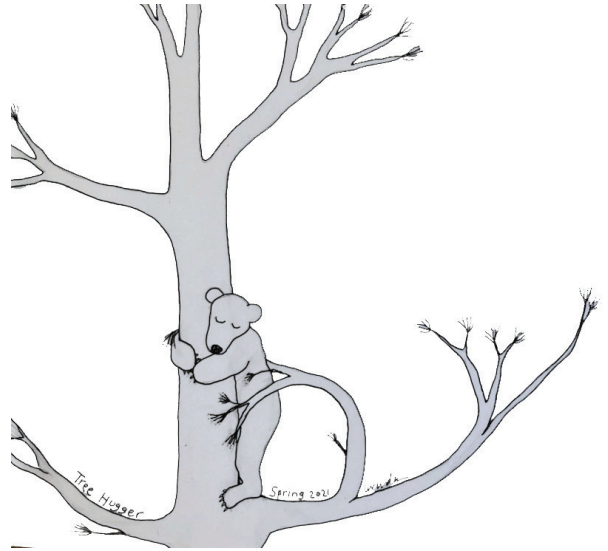
by Ann Bryant

In the Wildlife Rights Battlefield Arena, where every imaginable weapon is drawn to confront, threaten, convince, shame, annihilate, and conquer the opposition, we Wildlife Champions are often derogatorily labeled “Huggers”---- Bear Huggers, Bunny Huggers, Tree Huggers etc. You’ve heard the ‘insults’ and have probably been called these very names. This is always done in an attempt to make you mad, get you all upset and force you to shout obscenities back.

What the ‘other side’ does not seem to realize is that we are not insulted by these names. We have no issues with being called Nature Huggers. Why would we? We are very proud of the fact that we honor and appreciate Bears, Trees ... and all of Mother Earth, and within our hearts we sincerely do give Her hugs. We are not ashamed---quite the opposite.

To me, it is incredibly sad that our adversaries are not capable of understanding that their ‘sticks and stones’ are complimentary. Sadly, these folks are devoid of a normal, respectful, appreciative connection to Mother Earth---and all Her children---and therefore cannot comprehend people like us. Unlike them, we do not believe that wild animals were put on Earth to be mistreated, tormented, hunted down, killed, exploited, and exterminated. We believe the same power who gave us our life, gave the animals theirs. And everyone’s life is therefore sacred.

We do not agree that animals can not feel pain, or that they function only by ‘instinct’. We have all learned from the house pets we have had since childhood that animals can think, feel, hurt, love, laugh, cry and communicate. All of us feel blessed and richer for the relationships we have with animals....be they our housemates, or the wildlife we enjoy outdoors.



Those on the other side are missing that connection, for reasons I cannot understand, no matter how hard I try. I want to be able to figure them out, so I can help them become real and complete human beings. I feel they would be much happier if they could experience the profound enlightenment that Love and Respect of Wildlife and the Natural World would bring into their lives. They deserve that, don't they? Everyone certainly does.

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*From the Bear Den...continued from previous page*

But there seems to be a mysterious and tragic glitch in their brains. It usually accomplishes nothing to try and talk common sense to them. They are incapable of understanding what we are saying... they get defensive and call us names.... "Bear Hugger!".... certain that will win the debate. It doesn't.

As much as I abhor these kinds of people, I have to admit I feel terribly sorry for them. I try to help animals, have dedicated my entire life to this mission. I just wish I could help these people, too. In my opinion, after we pass from this life, we have the answers to everything we have wondered about. Let's imagine you bring your list of questions to the proverbial pearly gates and you finally get the answers you searched for while you walked, incarnate, on Mother Earth. This will be my Question # One: What makes some human beings think it is ok to harm any of our fellow Earthlings... be they human or not? As soon as I get the answer, I'll try my best to let you all know.

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"If a man aspires towards a righteous life, his first act of abstinence is from injury to animals."

*---Albert Einstein*



*photo by Dwayne Hicks - www.DwaynesWorld.com  
and www.CarsonValleyTours.com*

# Save the Bears T-Shirt

Introducing the New 'Save the Bears'  
T-shirts! Make a Statement and Support  
the Bears!



Just released and available for sale at  
[LakeTahoeGiftShop.com](http://LakeTahoeGiftShop.com)

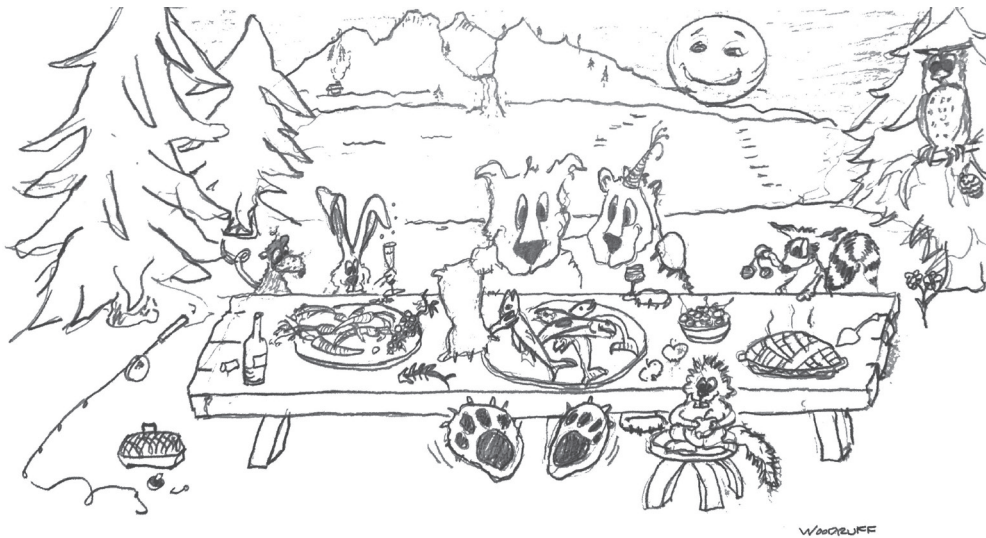
A \$2.00 donation will be made to the  
BEAR League for each shirt sold. You can  
buy yours locally or order from the web-  
site if you're from out of the area.

Any questions please email  
[James.Lawrence.aspen@gmail.com](mailto:James.Lawrence.aspen@gmail.com)

We'd love to see people wearing these  
shirts from all over the country.

"One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin"

*--- William Shakespeare*



## 2020 Bear Dinner was a Smashing Hit

Each fall, just before the bears go to sleep, we invite all our members and friends to 'Take a Bear to Dinner' and last year you all outdid yourselves in this imaginary, but super fun, fundraiser. Last year's Bear Dinner proceeds surpassed, by double, all previous years! Maybe we were all living vicariously through the bears because we humans were basically in 'lock-down' and unable to party.

Most of you know exactly what we are talking about but for our new members, let's invite Sally (a BEAR League member since we first founded) to introduce you to the 'unreal event'. This is the note Sally included with her donation for the dinner-party: "I wanted to make my donation for the Ball this year...I'll be sending a little sumpin' for Henry, who showed up at the dance, wet and a little drunk...he didn't have a ticket, but he was welcomed with open arms and bear hugs nonetheless. He told me all

about it...dancing, dining, drinking under the moon and stars, his favorite band, the most delicious delicacies a bear ever tasted, why, he even met a gorgeous sleek she-bear and had some snuggling...he didn't go into details...Apparently, it was an enormous success!"

All of us at BEAR League Headquarters have a lot of fun planning and preparing for the dinner party and we love nothing more than when our members play along, like Sally did. As a side, we just got word that Henry and Harriet (the sleek she-bear he fell in love with at the party) just emerged from hibernation. Looks as though Henry won't be a party crasher this fall...since he's now an official and respectable 'married bear'.

We hope you will all join us again this fall for another Fairytale Bear Dinner Party. Afterall, it's you, dear members, who make the party real. And we dearly love you for this.





# Thoughts From the President



by *Ali Van Zee*

As I write this, Representative Deb Haaland (D-New Mexico) is on the eve of her confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. She will be firmly at the helm of this critical Department by the time you read this. For all of us who work with, advocate for and love our unique and precious wildlife, this appointment carries with it much hope. Perhaps, more hope than we have dared to have since the creation of this Cabinet Department.

A department started by hunters for the benefit of hunters, Interior has mostly mismanaged our nation's wildlife - especially our apex predators like mountain lions, wolves, coyotes and our precious bears. These animals have been considered 'vermin' and targeted for near extirpation. They have never been, as evidenced by their classification as 'Big Game', honored, revered, or understood. Instead, they have been vilified, made into scary monsters to keep the public frightened. If Interior (and the State wildlife agencies under Interior) can keep you afraid of animals, then you'll be grateful to the hunters and wardens who kill them to keep their "numbers in control", right? We think this mentality is abhorrent and outdated and we know you, as BEAR League members, do, too.

We have built our organization around the principle of coexistence and devoted all our efforts to helping the public understand the nature and character of the bears and animals we hold so dear. For the first time in our almost 25 years of existence, we see a glimmer of hope on the horizon that we have a kindred spirit in DC who will bring a deep love and

understanding of the importance of having wild animals on the landscape.

We have hope that this daughter of the Laguna Pueblo and 35th generation New Mexican will bring her deep ancestral knowledge of the land and animals to bear as she steers the Dept of the Interior toward a more ethical and protectionist role.

We face the biggest challenge life on this planet has ever had to deal with: a warming world. Ocean temps are rising, Arctic and Antarctic temps are soaring. The tropics - home to 900 Million people - may become uninhabitable this century! Protecting land from development and industry is a key element in fighting climate change. Rewilding land once abused by clear-cutting is another key. And understanding the crucial role Wildlife plays in maintaining healthy habitats is the cornerstone of it all.

Dare we hope we now have a champion for wildlife in DC? Dare we hope that reason will prevail, that the Department of the Interior will now actually protect this great land and its animals to help save the planet for our children and grandchildren? I think we can. But, she can't do it alone. It will take all of us urging our Members of Congress to work with her, to call on our State wildlife agencies to stop killing and start protecting. It will take all of us to model the behavior we seek of those in positions of authority. We have the best chance now we've ever had to Live In Harmony with bears and all their wild cousins. Congratulations Deb, we're rooting for you!

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*"The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will!" --- Theodore Roosevelt*



## It's Renewal Time

Each spring, in March or April, we send out our membership renewal invitations. We ask our members to renew only once a year. Many of you send your dues in at the end of the year instead, and this is fine, too. Several send a monthly donation, which is terrific!

Sometimes it can get confusing to our members as to whether you are current or need to send your dues in. Look at your mailing envelope and if you see four asterisks after your name you are current and do not need to mail in your renewal dues.

We include a Membership Form on the back page of every newsletter for those who wish to renew that way, or for our members to share with friends. If ever you have any questions about your membership or whether your dues are due please don't hesitate to reach out to our office for help. Email or call us anytime.

And, *Thank You again*, for continuing to support the BEAR League... and, especially, the Bears.



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If you are already a member & have paid your annual dues,  
why not share this membership offer with a friend?

*Just cut along the line and mail to address below.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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New Member

Renewal

Donation

Please indicate the annual membership category  
you wish to support:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Bear Cub

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Kodiak Bear

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 Grizzly Bear

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Cinnamon Bear

\_\_\_\_\_ \$2000 and above Spirit Bear

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Black Bear

**The BEAR League needs your support -- Thank You!**

We do NOT share our members names with anyone!

*501c.3 tax exempt organization*

*Your donations are tax deductible.*

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