

For Immediate Release:

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Pears for Bears

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Appalachian Bear Rescue is asking the public to help feed its twelve (12) cubs and bears with backyard fruit. Anyone who has a pear or apple tree in their backyard knows that now is the time that it is bearing fruit. If your pear or apple tree produces more fruit than you can bear to eat, this is the opportunity to donate the pears and apples to feed the bear cubs at Appalachian Bear Rescue this season.

Lisa Stewart, Curator of Appalachian Bear Rescue, has been told that the hard mast crop (acorns) for this fall will be low, and she expects to have a lot of hungry cubs to feed this fall. "We also have ten (10) cubs and two (2) yearlings right now. They eat a lot! Without the generous donation of unsalable food from the Village Market and its shoppers in Townsend, we would not be able to feed all twelve of our bears," Stewart said.

Appalachian Bear Rescue's "Pears for Bears" program provides the public with a way to put their unused fruit to a very good use by helping Appalachian Bear Rescue to feed its current bears and those it expects to help in the fall.

Due to Tennessee TWRA regulations, the public is not permitted to deposit donated fruit at the bear center. However, the public can donate pears (and apples) for the bears by dropping them off at The Village Market in Townsend and at the entrance of the Knoxville Zoo. Representatives of Appalachian Bear Rescue will pick up the fruit through September 30.

In its 11th year of operation, ABR has rescued 76 bears and is currently caring for ten cubs and two yearlings. ABR is a one of a kind 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides an urgently needed alternative for wildlife officials trying to save the lives of orphaned and injured black bear cubs. ABR orchestrates releases and medical care with cooperation from Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, The National Park Service, and The University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Science. ABR is also supported by other non-profit organizations, such as Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Alcoa Foundation.

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