



BEAR SAFETY

YES...you may have seen a bear around the lakes recently. There have been a few bear sightings and they are becoming more frequent as bear have continually been moving south throughout the state. Below are a few key tips to stay safe:

1. Don't leave food (even pet food) stored outside on decks or in garages. Keep pet food in a container with tight lids and inside the house.
2. Keep all garbage in bins; preferably bear-proof ones. Arrangements can usually be made with your garbage person. There are bear proof bins that are a little more expensive but work well. Bears can be very effective in opening regular garbage cans!!
3. Don't put sunflower seeds in your bird feeders. Bears love them!
4. If walking around the lakes or in the woods, and it is quiet, make loud noises. Like yelling, "YO, Bear!" If you surprise a bear, it is more likely to be aggressive.

5. These are Black Bears and are **usually** less aggressive than grizzlies. If a bear stands on his hind legs it is showing aggression. If it should charge, do the following:
- a. DO NOT RUN! If you do it will think you are food!! Do not scream or maintain eye contact; act humble and back away very slowly. If you are attacked, fall down face first and put your folded hands over the back of your neck... and pray!!

 - b. If possible, during a bear encounter call 911 and give them your location. Remember that bears were here first and this is their nature habitat. Let us do what we can to live, safely with the bears. Wildlife is wonderful