



MoraineCamplandsAssociation

Summer 2015

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MORAINECAMPLANDSASSOCIATION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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MCA Board Of Directors

President

William Yanosh - E-056 / 2017

Vice President

Bob Vilella - G-020 / 2015

Treasurer

Ruby Marcocelli - E-095 / 2016

Secretary

Mike Grady - D-150 / 2017

Director At Large

Vacant

Denny Kingston - H-031 / 2015

Bill Oyler - B-006 / 2015

Vacant - C- / 2017

Linda Revetta - A-117 / 2017

Judy Gould - D-098 / 2015

Linda Ventrice - A-154 - 2015

Wow! it is the 4th of July already, where has the time gone? Much work continues to happen all around the grounds and we have some new employees hired since the last issue of this newsletter. As always, please treat all employees with respect. We have some very important meetings coming up in early July. On July 5th, we are meeting to vote on using the BIA funds to help defer the costs to each member for the new sewage plant. This is the reason the BIA was established years ago and utilizing these funds is the correct thing to do so I hope everyone comes out to cast their vote that day. We need approximately 200 votes present to gain the quorum and hold our vote. Keep in mind each lot gets 2 votes, so we need at least 100 single lot owners to join us that day for the vote. This vote will lower each lot's share by approximately \$375. As of this writing we do not have revised numbers from the engineering firm yet but you can expect a total requirement of approximately \$900 per lot. If we get a positive vote for the BIA whatever the lot total is, it will be lowered by \$375. At this point we are still looking to have the money paid by September 2015 and further information will be made available as plant construction plans are firmed up. We have had some major issues so far this year at the sewage plant. Jon and crew along with the engineers are doing their best to keep this plant running with the least amount of expenses. Some of these breakdowns are more costly than expected but we have no choice but to spend the money to keep this plant running. We are also trying to expedite the construction as a result of the rapidly deteriorating plant but whether that is doable or not is yet to be finalized. Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday July 12, 2015. This is where our auditors come to present their audit findings for the previous fiscal year to the membership. All committees have been busy so far this year and as communicated by all committees, volunteers are still needed. Some events have already been canceled this year as a result of not enough volunteers for certain events. Please consider volunteering, as we all know, it is the volunteers who do much of the work within the campgrounds and it is the volunteers that keep our dues as low as they are. Without volunteers, many events would not exist and without the money the committees generate, our dues would increase. I know some are quick to say we should increase the dues, however the largest percentage have made it quite clear that increasing dues causes hardships for them, as we have seen each time the dues were increased over the past 10 years. We strive to provide all services for the lowest cost we can. Our budget has always and will always be available for anyone to view and I believe you will see it is a fair and cost conscious budget. As I detailed in the last newsletter, this year we were able to provide additional funds for vehicles, roads and trees. These funds were above what has been traditionally budgeted, this was a one time event. Lot numbers on golf carts and trailers has been brought up many times over the past few years and security will begin providing reminder notices to those who are not compliant with Rule 108 or 413. If you get such a notice please correct the situation in a timely manner. I want to thank everyone who has worked hard for the association either through employment or volunteering and I know your hard work is appreciated by all members.

BE SAFE and ENJOY the rest of the season!

William Yanosh - President

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Board Of Director Meetings
 First Saturday of every month
 A-Frame Dining Hall
 9:00am
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Adult Lounge	Bill Oyler
Architectural	Linda Ventrice
Audit & Budget	Ruby Marcocelli
By-Laws Rules & Regs	Bob Vilella
Church	Judy Gould
Elections & Nominations	Mike Grady
Pool	Bill Oyler
Inspections	Linda Ventrice
Lake	Judy Gould
Maintenance	Bob Vilella

Newsletter	Ruby Marcocelli
Sales & Promotions	Linda Revetta
Security & Mgmt	Bill Yanosh
Sewage	Bill Yanosh
Social	Bill Oyler
Sports	Denny Kingston
Store	Bob Vilella
Teens	Mike Grady
Youth	Mike Grady
Vehicles	Denny Kingston
Wifi	Bill Yanosh

FROM THE TREASURER

**REMINDER !
 UNDER NO
 CIRCUMSTANCES
 WILL CASH
 IN EXCESS OF
 \$25.00
 BE ACCEPTED AT
 THE OFFICE!
 YOU MUST PAY
 BY CHECK OR
 MONEY ORDER
 ONLY!**

**Also, please ensure
 that you get a receipt
 for any money
 transactions that you
 make in the office.**

MCA Fishing Tournament



Due to bad weather
 The tournament has been moved
 To the weekend of
 July 18th and 19th
 Bernie Lipinski will be taking
 early sign-ups on July 17,
 6:00pm-8:30pm at D-59
 You may also sign up anytime
 Saturday and Sunday
 during the contest

Happy July 4th Campers! Please be safe over these two holiday weekends. Make sure you know the rules and make sure your guests know the rules. Rules are available at the office if you need a refresher.

A few reminders:

We have been busy this year with our new QuickBooks program and decided to send a courtesy notice to anyone that we had on the books still showing amounts due. As you know, all dues and assessments are due on April 1, 2015. Fines begin to accrue on April 15th thru June 30th. At the end of business on June 30th, if you have not paid, your gate cards are locked out and you begin to accrue \$25 per week in fines. At the same time, we prepare the paperwork to send a claim to the magistrate to terminate your lease.

There will be a sewage assessment decision made soon. Please keep yourself up to date on the payment and late fee schedule, we will send this information to you as soon as the decision has been made.

PLEASE make sure your contact information is correct and up to date in the office. We get many pieces of returned mail when we send out post cards and notices. We also need to be able to reach you by phone in the event of an emergency. Please make sure your information is accurate and up to date as soon as you can, we have a form in the office you can fill out quickly and easily.

Please rest assure that we are watching your funds carefully and it should set your mind at ease that we have a chain of people doing so.

Our Budget and Audit Team have been working with all of our books. They are reconciling monthly with the bank, not only the committee funds, but also our corporate funds.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to ask!

Ruby Marcocelli - Treasurer / E-Section Representative

This is notification of voting for the MCA BOD to use \$300,000.00 of the BIA Emergency Fund as payment towards the construction of a new Sewage Plant.

Meeting Sunday, July 5, 2015 @ 12:00pm SHARP at the A-Frame
 To Establish a Quorum

Pursuant to the Motion 07-14-02-01, I permit the Moraine Camplands Association Board of Directors to spend \$300,000.00 of the BIA Emergency Fund as Payment towards the construction of a new Sewage Plant.

S **A** **M** **P** **L** **E**
 YES NO

WE NEED YOU!
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015
12:00pm SHARP
WE NEED YOUR VOTE TO REACH THE QUOROM!
 Please Share This Important Information

FROM D SECTION

What To Do Should An Emergency Arise:

Having experience as an Emergency Medical Technician, I know the importance of quickly getting help to someone in an emergency situation. It was brought to the attention of the board members that many campers need direction on what to do in case of an emergency. First, call 911!!! The ambulance will be able to get in the gate. Be sure you know the camp's address is 281 Staff Road Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Make sure you know your individual lot number. If you feel you need urgent help before an ambulance would arrive, here are a few options to try and get that help. If you have a CB you can call for help on channel #1. You can call the campground phone number (724)794-6242 and press #4 to reach Jon Bluedorn (Maintenance Manager). Hopefully, you are lucky enough to have access to an additional phone and can be calling the campground while calling 911. Another option is if you have someone with you send them to the guard shack and use the microphone, which hangs out of the guard shack window, to call for security. I would also suggest going outside and yell for help. Hopefully, a neighbor will hear your cries for help and come to your aid. After all, camp should be all about neighbor helping neighbor. Campers need to be aware there is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in a break away window on the side of the guard shack. Hopefully, the BOD and committees can work together to purchase additional AED units. I am working on gathering first aid supplies to put in the first aid kit kept in the guard shack. If anyone is willing to donate to the First Aid Kit here are some suggestions: first aid tape, assorted sizes of gauze pads, assorted sizes of band aids, gauze rolls, hand sanitizer, instant cold packs, assorted sizes of ace (elastic) bandages, saline solution, etc. Please drop off any donations at the office. Jon Bluedorn came up with the suggestion of organizing an Emergency Response Team. We are looking for volunteers from each section that would have a specific duty in case of an emergency. This would include individuals with and without medical training. Those with medical training would respond to help out the individual in need. Those individuals without medical training would help by going to the gate and directing the ambulance to the appropriate campsite, directing traffic, crowd control, etc. Anyone will to volunteer for the Emergency Response Team can do so by leaving your name, lot #, and phone number at the office. Hopefully, the ideas in this article provide campers with a better understanding how to receive help should an emergency arise. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas regarding emergency situations, please feel free to contact me through the Camp Facebook page.

Judy Gould / D-Section Representative D-98

FROM H SECTION

Members,

As we come into the busiest time of the season, it's time for me to remind everyone that it's imperative that you vote on the "Use of the BIA Savings Account" on Sunday, July 5th, at Noon at the A-Frame. I fully support the use of these funds that we've been saving for years for the replacement of our sewage plant. By using the funds it will help defray your out of pocket expense that will be charged to every lot for the replacement in the form of a special assessment. Without the plant replacement we will not be able to camp in the very near future. This news is not new as I've been commenting on the condition of the plant for the past 5 or 6 years at meetings and in this newsletter and now the time has come. I hope to see you there.

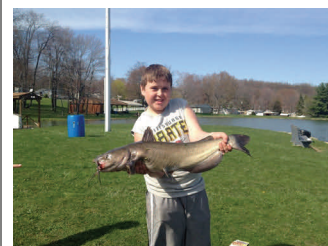
Remember the meeting starts at NOON SHARP! Attend the meeting and Vote Yes.

Labor Day weekend will be our annual voting for the Board of Directors. Positions are open in every section except E and for Director at Large. Be a part of the decision making of the association and pick up your petition to run after the General Members Meeting in July.

Remember that illegal fireworks are NOT permitted in Pennsylvania and at MCA in particular. Ground fireworks (sparklers, snaps, fountains etc.) are the only legal ones in Pennsylvania and here at camp. If it goes in the air, or goes bang it's illegal!

Let's all have a safe and fun filled weekend with our families and friends and remember that it's the members that are responsible for their guests actions.

Happy 4th,
Denny Kingston / H-Section Representative





SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Goofy Golf Outting

AUG - 29 - 2015



Meet at the A Frame at Noon, & Tee Time at 12:30

The 1st Goofy Golf Scavenger Hunt

As a group of 4 golfers you will go all over camp ground

looking for all 18 holes "not in particular order"

Sign up your group of 4 now for \$10 a Golfer

Deadline for sign up's is 8/21/15

After 8/21/15 sign up fee will be \$20 a golfer

Prizes

The FIRST team to get to all 18 holes, The best score overall

Group & Single player scores, Most creative hole by the host

After Party

With Hotdogs & Hamburgers, Bring a cover dish

Prizes, DJ HYATT will be playing & BYOB

Sign You, Your Group Or Your Lot For A Hole,

See - Gina Butler, Andrea Speedy, Carie Visconti Or Dave Hyatt



FROM SOCIAL

On June 13, 2015, the Nicini family had a 90th birthday party for their father Tony. They set up a donation box to be used toward our fireworks display for this year. A total of \$110.00 was collected!!! We would like to thank all who donated and especially thank the entire Nicini family for their thoughtfulness.

On behalf of the Social Committee, Andrea, Carie and Myself - A Big Thank You!

Bill Oyler / Social Committee Liaison

The Social Committee will sponsor the Annual Pet Photo Contest on September 6, 2015, from 12:00 noon until 3:00pm outside of the A-Frame. Everyone can vote! There will be 3 Categories:

Best Photo - Best Costume - Owner Look Alike

It is also a MCA Election Day so vote for your favorite candidate then choose your favorite Pet Photo favorites.

Bring entries to Arlene at D-85 by August 30th. Put your Pet's name and Lot number on the back.

As usual, we will accept donations for the Butler Humane Society

Arlene Timmons / D-85

Hello Campers, Just a few reminders:

Fourth of July Holiday Celebration! Saturday, July 11, 2015.

Saturday, July 11th. The line up for our Decorated Golf Cart Parade will be at 11:00am in the Ball field. Please see me so that I can give you your # and show you where to line up.

Upon the arrival of Zambelli Corp - All areas that they have taped off MUST BE VACATED!

This includes the Memorial Pavilion!

Please join us after the fireworks at the Memorial Pavilion as we continue the evening with the Mansfield Five Band.

Saturday, August 29th, Goofy Golf Outting. We are looking for any campers that are willing to create and host a hole. Sign up is \$10.00 per person/up to groups of four. After August 21, the fee will increase to \$20.00 per person. The day of fun includes, golfing, prizes and ending with food. You may sign up with Dave Hyatt C-31, Gina Butler A-10, Carie Visconti B-53, Andrea Speedy A-162.

A copy of the season's events is available at the office. When any new event may be created we will post signs near the gate and share on the Facebook Camp and MCA Event pages.

I would also like to take this time to thank everyone who has helped me with the setup and cleanup of the dances, bingo's etc. I really appreciate all of the help.

Andrea Speedy / Social Committee Chair A-162

FROM SPORTS

GOLFERS,

MCA's annual golf outing will be held at Green Meadows on July 18th. Sign up now with Jake at E-029 or Denny at H-031. The cost is \$65.00 and this includes Green Fees and Cart, Lunch at the turn, Dinner at the Gateside Pavilion and prizes for everyone. Spots are limited so sign up quickly. Cut off for sign-ups is July 12th at 1:00pm, teams will be picked that afternoon.

Golf Balls in the Boat will be held on Saturday, July 4th at Noon at the C-section side of the lake.

Horseshoe tournament will be held at the Memorial Pavilion Pits on Sunday, July 5th at 1:00pm following the meeting and vote on the BIA account at the A-frame.

Denny Kingston / Sports Liaison

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Hi Campers!

JULY 4- YOUTH SCAVENGER HUNT, Meet us at the Youth Room 12pm sharp. Teams may be up to 5 children and MUST be accompanied by an adult. Adults are there mostly for safety. Please let your child do the searching. A list of 25 items will be given and you must go around to different lots and ask to borrow their items. There is No Fee for this event.

REMINDER - Movies for the kids on Friday Nights at 9:00pm Weather Permitting.

Also, our Crafts, Dances, Candy Hunts, Movies and our Scavenger Hunts are always free! Our very generous campers donate all year long to help our youth out.

Dawn Grady / Youth Committee Chair



ADULT LOUNGE

From the Adult Lounge Committee

Reminder, the Adult Lounge committee will be having a Super Bingo on August 15th for all of the Bingo Players. The price of the ticket is \$20.00. Most of you are already familiar with the Super Bingo, any questions, feel free to stop at E-2. Hope to see ya there!

Chrissy Mallory / Co-Chair Adult lounge

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

This year is going to be a little crazy for the Elections. We have 7 seats up this year.

Three - 3 Year Terms, One - 2 Year Term, Two - 1 Year Terms and Director At Large

The 1 and 2 year terms are to replace Board Members who resigned early.

	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>2 Years</u>	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>At Large-1 Year</u>
Sections	B - H - G	C	A - D	

Petitions will be available in the MCA office on Saturday, July 11th, 2015 and must be returned to the office by Saturday, August 8, 2015.

So please, anyone interested in running for the Board please pick up your petitions in the office beginning Saturday, July 11th 2015.

INSPECTIONS COMMITTEE

Hello MCA Campers!

The Inspections Committee will be checking on rule violations and would like to remind you to obtain 2015 stickers for the following.

1. AC and Refrigerators: Stickers must be viewable from the road.
2. Golf Carts: Stickers must be on all Electric Carts & Insurance Stickers on both Gas & Electric Carts.
3. Lot Numbers must be 3 inches high and must be visible on all lots. Lot numbers are necessary for safety, security and maintenance emergencies.
4. 3 inch numbers must also be on all Golf Carts (front & back) and boats docked at the lake.

Undesirable and unsafe conditions on your lot such as: Overgrown grass and weeds, unstable structures, non-stable propane tanks, junk vehicles (Cars, Trucks, Golf Carts Etc..) and junk or debris on lots will result in penalties.

Fines and penalties will be issued after MCA Notice. Please see that any existing fines or penalties are paid as they may increasing in the future.

Please report all unsafe conditions to the office for review and action.

Thank You.

MCA HISTORY

In 1988, MCA was mandated by the Butler County Courts to renovate their electrical system mostly due to live electric (110 volts) being fed through trees and hydrants causing a hazardous condition or close our doors to camping. Some of the wiring was MCA's electric lines and some was individual members stringing extension cords and decorative lighting in the trees.

MCA corrected their wiring through an assessment of \$560.00 to each lot. Poles and meters were installed in central locations after the members voted against the installation of individual meters due to the additional expense to them.

Why this article? Because many members have installed party lights and other decorative lights on MCA's trees again causing the hazard of 25 years ago by putting 110 volts of ungrounded electric back into the trees.

THESE LIGHTS and everything else electrical MUST be removed from the trees immediately as the trees are the property of MCA. Those items if not removed will be removed by maintenance and disposed of.

Do not let history repeat itself.
Denny Kingston



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MCA OFFICE 724.794.6242
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MCA EMAIL mcafo13@gmail.com

Please make sure your contact information is up to date at the office. It is important the we have your current residential address on file. You don't want to miss important information about camp functions, dues and assessments!

Call us now for a Free Estimate

David LICENSED EXTERMINATOR **Lena** RAINBOW AUTHORIZED DEALER

BUGS'n RUGS

724.841.2723 724.355.7223

Extermination - Carpet Cleaning - Vacuum Sales

Golf Cars 4 All
Sales & Service



Quick Turn Around on Repairs Jeff Caldwell
Customizing 724.333.4940
Winter Storage GolfCars4All@Yahoo.com

Golf Cart Safety Reminder

For your safety and the safety of your friends and family, please remind everyone of our golf cart rules listed below.

Let's avoid any unnecessary injuries and have a fun summer!

- RULE 104 Unlicensed persons, under the age of 18 are prohibited from operating a golf cart and/or golf course maintenance vehicle within MCA property.
- RULE 107 A) All persons riding on golf carts must be properly seated.
B) A child may not steer or operate a golf cart from beside or on the lap of an adult.



MCA Beach Party

The MCA Beach Party
And
Anything That Floats
Will be held Saturday, August 8, 2015
An All Committee Function
and a Fun Day for All!



LIVING WITH PENNSYLVANIA BLACK BEARS

BLACK BEARS have been roaming our forests, wallowing in our bogs and swamps, and living around our farms since the days before the earliest human settlements. Today, bears are many things to many people, from valued game animals to the highlight of an outdoor experience, to farm pillagers and neighborhood pests, to even a dangerous threat. Our perceptions of bears are a product of their mostly shy, mysterious nature and powerful presence, not to mention the timeless tales that have been told about them. Unfortunately, there's as much misinformation about bears in circulation as there is fact. And that's too bad, because bears needn't be feared, nor should they be dismissed as harmless. They simply need to be respected.

Pennsylvania's bear population has been increasing for decades, and at the same time, many people have moved into the areas where bears reside. As a result, bears and people are coming into contact more than ever. And most of these encounters occur when bears learn that where people live there's easy-to-obtain food. Learning about bears and being aware of their habits is important for people who live in bear country, which now includes most of the state.

The bear facts *Ursus americanus* is the black bear's scientific name; it means "American bear." Although three species of bears inhabit North America, only the black bear is found in Pennsylvania. Population estimates in recent years have ranged up around 15,000. Black bears appear heavy, but they are surprisingly agile; they can run up to 35 mph, climb trees and swim well. They may live up to 25 years in the wild.

Black bears are intelligent and curious. Studies show that bears can see colors, recognize human forms, and notice even the slightest movement. However, bears usually rely on their acute sense of smell and, to a lesser degree, hearing to locate food and warn them of danger.

Despite their common name, black bears are not always black. They may be cinnamon or, even more rare, blond. Many bears have a white blaze or "V" on their chest.

Adults usually weigh around 200 pounds, with males being heavier than females, often more than twice as much. Some weigh up to 600 or more pounds and rare individuals up to 900 have been found. Males are called boars; females, sows. Black bears measure about three feet high when on all fours or about five to seven feet tall when standing upright.

Bear signs and sounds Black bear tracks are distinctive. The hind footprint resembles a human's. Bears have five toes. The front foot is shorter than the rear, which is long and narrow. Claw marks may or may not be visible.

Bears use trails, just like people do. Look for tracks in soft earth or around mud puddles, and for claw marks on smooth-bark trees or rotten logs that have been ripped apart for insects. It's also easy to recognize a black bear's sizeable droppings of partly digested berries, corn or animal hair.

Adult black bears make a variety of sounds that include woofing, growls and jawpopping. Sows communicate with their cubs by using low grunts or huffs. Cubs whimper, chuckle and bawl.

Feeding habits Bears may be on the move at any time, but they're usually most active at dusk and dawn. Bears are omnivorous, eating almost anything, from berries, corn, acorns, beechnuts and even grass, to table scraps, carrion, honey and insects. During late summer and fall, black bears fatten up for winter hibernation. At this time they may actively feed for up to 20 hours a day, ingesting up to 20,000 calories.

Bears and winter Bears are usually dormant in winter, remaining in their dens, which can be rock caverns, excavated holes beneath shrubs, trees or dead falls, in hollow trees or brushy thickets. A hibernating bear's heart rate and breathing slow, and its body temperature drops slightly. During this time they do not eat or pass body wastes. A hibernating bear relies on stored fat to make it through the winter, however, they may emerge if they're disturbed.

Mating and breeding In Pennsylvania, bears mate primarily from early June to mid-July. Males are very aggressive towards each other at this time. Sows give birth in January; litters number one to five. The newborns, cubs, are blind, toothless, and covered with short, fine hair that seems to inadequately cover their pink skin. Cubs nurse in the den while the sow sleeps. Nurtured with the sow's rich milk, they grow from as light as 10 ounces at birth to as much as 10 pounds by the time they leave the den in early April. Males do not help rear young.

Most cubs stay with the sow for a little more than a year. They watch her every move and learn by imitating her. Cubs are playful, regularly romping and wrestling with their littermates. The sows are very protective of cubs, sending them up trees if danger threatens. Adult males occasionally kill and eat cubs. The family group disbands when the cubs are about a year and a half old and the sow is again ready to breed.

If you live in bear country If you live or have a summer home in bear country, you may need to make some accommodations to coexist peacefully with these large animals. Make sure you don't encourage bears to become problem bears by putting your garbage where it's available to them or, even worse, by intentionally feeding them.

Black bears will consume almost anything. They will eat human food, garbage, bird feed, pet foods and livestock feed. They also raid cornfields and beehives. Once bears find easily accessible food sources, whether on a farm or in a housing development, they lose their wariness of people and will keep coming back as long as food is available. The best way to get rid of these unwanted visitors is to remove the food source for a month or more, but even then, there are no guarantees. A persistent bear may damage property, increase the risk of human injury, or become an unwanted visitor in other parts of the neighborhood. And, all too often, fed bears become dead bears.

Perhaps the best way to keep bears from being attracted to your home is to keep them from finding food there in the first place. Store trash, bird seed and pet food inside a building, garage or secure shed. Don't put out your trash until the morning of collection day. Be sure garbage cans are cleaned regularly, with hot water and chlorine bleach.

If you have pets, bring their food pans inside at night. And when it comes to dogs, bears generally steer clear of chained or penned dogs. Unleashed dogs that approach bears, however, may be injured or killed. If you have a dog in bear country, don't let it roam far from the house, leash it whenever you hike in the woods, and keep it in the house or in a kennel at night.

Other tips include cleaning the grill after every use, and properly disposing of grill grease. Don't dump the grease out back. If you feed birds during summer (and if you're living in bear country, you shouldn't be), you may want to bring all bird feeders, including hummingbird feeders, in at night. Bears also are attracted to fruit, vegetable wastes and other tasty items in mulch or compost piles, so keep your gardens and areas around fruit trees cleaned up, too.

Beehives attract bears, especially right after the bruins come out of hibernation in the spring and during the peak honey production period of late summer and fall. Electric fences are the best way to protect bees, honey and equipment. Contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission for more information about fencing.

Black bears are also attracted to corn, especially in the milk stage. Bears can devastate cornfields. Call the Game Commission if bears are causing extensive damage; officers may be able to help.

Recreational feeding areas—dumpsters, garbage pits and wildlife feeders where people gather to see bears—are particularly bad. Bears that frequent these areas often lose their natural fear of humans, and they're also the ones most likely to be found climbing onto porches or even breaking into houses to investigate enticing smells. Other times they raid bird feeders, clean out dog dishes, kill domestic animals, or rifle through garbage containers.

If a bear is visiting your property, there are two possible courses of action. The first is to make loud noises or shout at the bear, like you'd react to a dog getting into your trash, but keep your distance. The second option is to leave the bear alone, and clean up the bear's mess after it leaves. Follow up by making sure you eliminate whatever attracted the bear in the first place. You may need to talk to your neighbors, as well.

If bears are regularly feeding at a site, encourage your neighbors or community to clean up and close the area. Don't wait until bears start roaming the neighborhood or spectators become a problem. Eliminate the feeding source; it's what lured the bears to your area.

Because the feeding of bears is the cause of so many bear related problems, it is now against the law to put out food for bears. It's also against the law to put out any feed, for any wildlife, that is causing bears to congregate in or habituate to an area.

What to do if you meet a bear Bear attacks are extremely rare, especially considering how often people encounter them. In most cases, a bear will detect you first and leave the area long before you'll ever see it. However, if you do meet a bear before it's had time to leave, here are some suggestions. But remember, every bear encounter is different.

Stay calm—If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. While moving away, talk to help the bear discover your presence.

Get back—If you have a close encounter, back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, which a bear may perceive as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If you're on a trail, step off on the downhill side and slowly leave the area.

Don't climb or run—If a cub is nearby, try to move away from it. But be alert, there could be other cubs. Never climb a tree to escape, because sows chase their cubs up trees when they detect danger. If you climb a tree, a sow may interpret that as an attempt to get her cubs. Stay on the ground and don't make any sudden movements. Running may prompt the bear to give chase; nobody can outrun a bear.

Pay attention—Bears will use all of their senses to figure out what you are. If they recognize you as a person, some may stand upright or move closer in their efforts to detect odors in the air currents. Don't consider this a sign of aggression. Once a bear identifies you, it will usually leave. However, if the bear stays, it may pop its jaws as a warning sign that it's uncomfortable. That's a sign for you to leave. Back away and slowly leave the area. If the jaw popping warning is ignored, some bears have been known to bluff charge to within a few feet. If this occurs, wave your arms wildly and shout at the bear.

Fight back—Again, black bear attacks are extremely rare. However, they have occurred. If a bear attacks, fight back. Bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is responsible for managing, conserving and protecting all wildlife, and is committed to doing everything possible to keep bear problems to a minimum. Extending the bear season where bear problems are most common, and prohibiting the feeding of bears are but the latest measures taken to help alleviate problems with bears. If you are having a problem with a bear and have no success using these suggestions, or if you have been attacked by a bear, please contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at the **Northwest Region Office 814-432-3187**



**GOLF CARTS
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