

# Building on bear trail ... learning that it is a bears' and critters' world shared with people

By Scott M. Anna

Little did I know when I purchased a cabin off of 180, eight miles south of Blairsville, that my cabin was directly on a bear trail.

Spatterings of bears have been sighted here through the years, but this year it is almost overwhelming!

Beginning with a visit that taught me not to keep anything that may be considered as edible in the eyes of a bear in plain sight, or not so plain sight, (for instance a bag of 9-Lives cat food just inside my screened in porch that I have so graciously purchased for a stray cat that was apparently abandoned by campers), the bear tore the screen, reached in and carried off the bag, without a second thought.

No bird or squirrel feeders of any kind, they even knocked down the hummingbird feeders, so now those are brought in at night.

Getting back to the visitors! On Aug. 9, I was awakened by a crashing sound about 7:30 a.m., discovered shortly thereafter it was the squirrel feeder. The mother bear of four adorable cubs was walking on my porch, two feet from my face glued to the window. After doing the damage, she and the ba-



bies left, without a thank you or anything to suggest they enjoyed all of the goodies I supplied them.

After the adrenaline rush was over from this visit, I e-

mailed photos, viewed my video, and called several people to tell them about this morning's experience.

I mistakenly thought this was the end of this years adventure with the bears!

Being an artist who paints watercolors, pencil sketches, and photographs wildlife and nature scenes, I thought this had been the opportunity of my lifetime, being that I had taken about 40 photos of the five bears visiting.