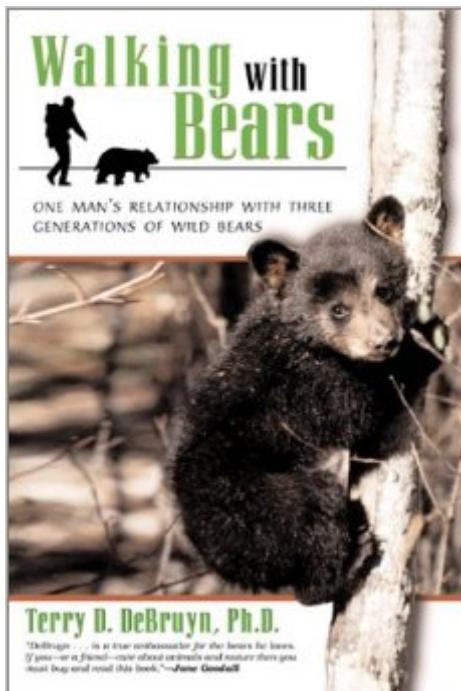


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# Walking With Bears: One Man's Relationship With Three Generations Of Wild Bears



## **Synopsis**

DeBruyn, a biologist specializing in black bears, believes that the only way to protect a wild species is to determine precisely what they do all day. To answer these questions, DeBruyn pioneered a G.P.S. monitoring system for radio-collared bears, but soon realized the only way to truly understand the animal is to enter its world. And so begins his incredible story. With enormous patience and respect, DeBruyn succeeds in acclimating a North American black bear with cubs to his presence. "Walking with Bears" is an endearing and moving tale of interspecies friendship.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The vast majority of popular books on bears emphasize how dangerous they can be. This is true even of most books which overview bear natural history and ecology. There are three reasons. First, "Scare" is what sells. Second, no writer wants to "lead" a reader to attempt something dangerous. Third, scientists who study bears typically spend a lot more time dealing with bears in traps, where the animals are frightened and defensive, than with free-ranging bears. The bear's fear and the biologist's fear combine to give biologists the perception that the bears are highly aggressive and dangerous. In fact, whoofing, huffing, jaw popping, ground slapping and other threat displays are more manifestations of fear than aggression. So one's safety lies more in calming the bear than in trying to intimidate it -- contrary to common "wisdom." These insights grew out of getting to know bears personally, one on one; by winning their trust so that one could spend hours or days with them in the wild. This was first done on a hit-and-miss basis with Alaska Peninsula brown/grizzly bears by Fish & Game biologist Jim Faro, and then by a series of grad students from Utah State

University, working at McNeil Falls: Derek Stonorov, Al Egbert, Mike Luque and Tom Bledsoe. Alaska Fish & Game biologist Larry Aumiller was hired by Faro to guide visitors to safely watch bears at McNeil, a responsibility at which Aumiller has excelled for roughly 20 years. (Tim Treadwell's "observations" from the same general region -- Among Grizzlies -- are entertaining though not entirely accurate) My own research on free ranging Alaska grizzly and black bears date back to 1972.

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