



New Perspectives, Inc.

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

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No Bears

By Nancy Lottridge Anderson, CFA

We spent part of our summer in the cool mountains of North Carolina. As we planned our June trip, we checked out local chat sites for information on activities and weather. The most common subject line? "Bears."

Did you know that bears can climb? I didn't. Apparently, they will climb high in the air onto decks for a taste of birdseed. They will sniff out your charcoal grill and invite themselves to the barbecue. They have been known to clean out the leftovers in your trash can, along with the trash can.

I was scared! How would I react if I encountered a hungry bear? How dangerous were these North Carolina black bears? And would they eat my precious pup, Loretta?

So off we went. It wasn't long before those in houses around us reported their own bear sightings. And they were close! I researched the behavior of black bears and found they are quite timid. Just don't get in between a Mama and her cubs!

And the bears around the place

we were staying? Apparently, they are quite accustomed to humans. Before long, we were sitting in lawn chairs at the neighbors' trying to catch a glimpse of the hairy beasts. I even found myself hoping for a sighting on my daily walk with Loretta. No longer did the prospect seem scary.

It just seemed like bears were part of the territory around here. Yes, you still need to be careful. Yes, you need to keep your pup close.

But these bears were fleeting. You had to be at the right time and the right place to catch a glimpse of the creature. And we just weren't!

Our bear vigil was for naught. No bears for us! We left disappointed and determined to "see one next year."



Money On My Mind

Investors are always on the lookout for the next bear market. While we are years away from the Financial Crisis of 2008, the memory of that historic bear market weighs on investors' minds. It was a scary time!

Average bull markets last 5 years. We are 8 years into this latest one, and markets are setting records. When things are looking their brightest is the moment I get the most cautious. When will the bears make an appearance?

"Bull markets usually end with euphoria." Consumer confidence is high, but not too high. The craziness of asset bubbles is less likely, but consumers are still spending steadily. A healthy type of fear is good for sustained growth.

Housing is strong but not heady. The jobs numbers are strong, but wages are just now ticking up. Oil is in a moderate range that leaves more money in pockets. Company earnings are decent. The dollar is king again. China is making progress once more.

The only sign of craziness is in our current political process! The result is that all signs point to "no bears."

But I'm still on the lookout! Investors understand that bear markets come with the territory but know how to avoid getting eaten. For now, no bears!

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Fee-Only Financial Advice



The Lighter Side

Q: What do you call a wet bear?
A: A drizzly bear!

