

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

January/February, 2022; Vol. 40, No.1



Surrounded by Grizzly Bears - Revisited

by Dave Nutting

This article was originally published in the Sept/Oct 2007 issue of T&B and is revisited as it is quite appropriate today.

What's it like to be surrounded by 7 grizzly bears? This summer, Mary Jo and I found out. We had been speaking at Glacier Meadow Lodge, a new creation-based camp on the east side of Glacier National Park. Armed with our pepper spray, we drove to the trailhead and launched out to enjoy God's beautiful creation. About an hour up the trail, we ran into a "bear jam" – a small group of hikers watching two grizzlies on the mountainside just above us. Before long, another grizzly and 2 cubs crossed the trail. Then another mama with one cub appeared. The bear with the 2 cubs circled above us, and came down on the trail behind us. Now what? We were surrounded on 3 sides by 7 bears (some as close as 30 yards away), and thick brush on the downhill side. One can of pepper spray wouldn't have gone very far if these bears had gotten aggressive.

Two people in the "bear jam" happened to be off-duty park rangers who comforted us with the fact that there has never been a bear attack in the park on a group of 4 or more people – yet. My

quick calculation of 7 bears times 4 people didn't bring too much assurance, but I kept those figures to myself to help prevent panic.

Finally, the bear with the one cub wandered into the brush, and we continued up the trail with 3 other couples. To our dismay, we were stopped a mile up by another park ranger. He informed us that the trail was now officially closed, and that for our safety, (and that of the bears) he had been assigned to escort all hikers back down the trail as a group. Our nice, quiet hike to a beautiful, high-altitude,



glacial lake was ended. Instead, we became part of a noisy "forced march" with 50 people shouting, "Hey bear," and "Go away bear."

It certainly was a blessing to see 7 bears from God's marvelous creation so close. However, this

incident makes me think about all the students who are surrounded by the "grizzly bears" of naturalistic, evolutionary teaching at school and practically everywhere else they turn. Some students may carry a few "pepper spray" facts and Bible verses to help ward off the assault, but they are still basically unarmed for the continuous onslaught on their faith from all sides. Though some proponents of evolution take a "live and let live" policy, others verbally "attack" and "maul" the first student who tries to stand up for the truth of Creation and the Bible. Unfortunately, a high percentage of students don't survive the incessant indoctrination and end up as casualties by the time they graduate.

Though we would have liked to continue our solo hike in Glacier, there is strength in numbers. Hiking alone is risky. Yet, fighting alone in the battle of worldviews can be too. So arm yourself and your family well through prayer, study, and the Word. Be sure you know how to use your "pepper spray" accurately and effectively. But even then, don't try to "hike alone" through life. Team up with others and stick together as you hike through "bear country."

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" – 2 Cor 10:4

Have you heard about my bear spray experience? Read on... **AOI**

How Not to Use Bear Spray *by Dave Nutting*

Earlier, I talked about effectively using bear pepper spray. Some may mistakenly think that bear spray is meant to go on your body like you might use mosquito spray. It is safe to say that you would not try that more than once. I know I won't. Back when I wrote about being surrounded by 7 grizzly bears, I could have mentioned my actual experience with it. However, at that time, it was still likely too embarrassing.

Realizing it was not a good idea to read the operating instructions on the can of bear spray while being gnawed by a



bear, I decided to practice ahead of time while at Glacier National Park. Yep, I figured out how to activate it! That was the easy part.

But how was I to de-activate it? I have to assume the manufacturer reasoned the user would ultimately be eaten by the bear and not need de-activation instructions. I tried one thing after another to no avail. Suddenly, my hand slipped and the canister discharged, dousing my t-shirt, chest, and neck with pepper spray! Overspray went into, and over, our rental car to where my wife and mother-in-law were now bent over in a fit of coughing.

Even after six

coin-activated showers and a change of clothes, the stuff still worked to repel bears! (I didn't see one the rest of the trip.) I also think the car rental agency likely sold the car with an assurance that no bear would ever break into it.

Lesson? Gratefulness: Grateful I never had to use the bear spray on a grizzly bear and that my bear protection device wasn't a 357 magnum revolver! But, as

it is wise to be prepared in bear country, it's also wise to read the instruction in God's word in preparation to face the bears of this world. **AOI**

God's Big Book of Animals

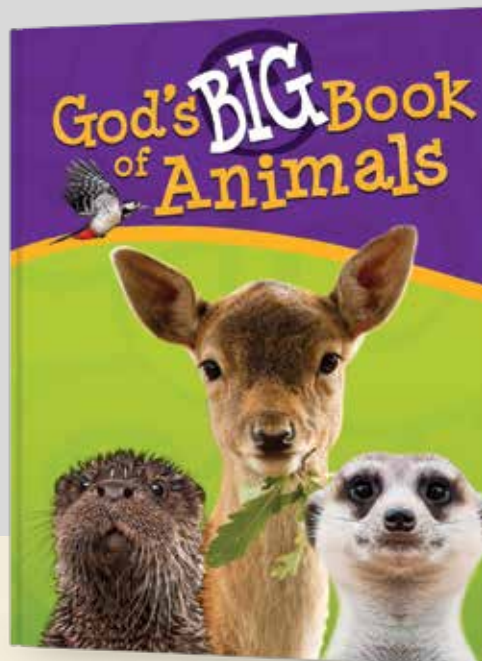
Review by Dave Nutting

This literally is a "Big Book!" weighing about 4 pounds, measuring 10" x 13.75" and containing 260 color pages of nearly 60 animals, birds, insects, etc. This hard-bound book quickly became my animal-loving granddaughter's favorite at age 8. Choosing one per day, she read the fascinating information on each animal to her grandmother, Mary Jo, and spent plenty of extra time poring over the content and gorgeous pictures. This book made "science" much more interesting to her!

Most children love to learn about animals, but this unique book

helps children acquire a biblical worldview as they do. Even though the recommended age range is 8-12, adults will enjoy it too. This great book can also provide children a fun learning experience for Christian homeschool, individual reading, or just spending quality time with parents or grandparents. This would be an excellent gift for any occasion!

Special price: Regular \$34.99, but get it from AOI for only **\$28**, plus S/H. A great value! Remember: Your purchase from AOI helps us spread the creation message to your family and others! **AOI**



The Awesome Grizzly Bear

by Dave Nutting

The grizzly bear ranks high on the bucket list of animals visitors wish to see in Yellowstone! Of course, most would rather view them from the safety of their cars rather than encounter them on a trail. Of all the large mammals in North America, the grizzly has certainly earned a reputation for being the most dangerous and unpredictable. Park officials, signs, and publications warn people to never hike alone, carry bear spray, and know how to use it. It doesn't fare well to read the directions on the can while a grizzly is charging you! Grizzlies can run faster than a horse for short distances, so don't plan to outrun one.

Now that your "bear danger" senses have been greatly heightened, maybe a National Park publication can ease some of your worries. It states that only 8 people have been killed by bears since Yellowstone was established in 1872. This is about the number killed by falling trees (7) and by lightning strikes (5). However, The NPS did not list the number of visitors who died of heart attacks resulting from grizzly bear attacks (<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/injuries.htm>).

Obviously, Yellowstone tourists are not the bears' usual diet. Being omnivorous, they feast mainly on vegetation. This includes berries and tubular plants which they dig with their long, sharp claws. They also listen intently for the chattering of squirrels and move in for the "kill" – not for the squirrel,

but for the cache of white pine nuts it has stored up. These nuts have been an important part of the bears' diet, although the supply was greatly diminished as a result of the devastating fires in 1988.

Surprisingly, bears will also eat large quantities of moths. According to research, this could be as many

as 30,000 – 60,000 moths per day! This certainly dispels the idea that big teeth and claws indicate that the exclusive diet of an animal is meat. That being said, grizzlies do eat lots of fish, some rodents, and the remains of freshly wolf-killed animals. In fact, according to park officials, grizzly bears can smell a wolf-killed carcass and make a beeline to it from over 3 miles away. Another researcher has data, including videos, that extends that distance to 20 miles. That is an amazing sniffing ability the grizzly's Creator endowed it with!

The coloration of grizzlies ranges from black, brown, to even blondish white. Adults reach lengths of 6-10 feet and typically weigh 500 to 1,200 pounds. After gorging themselves just prior to hibernation, they will lose as much as one third of their body

weight before emerging in the spring. Usually, females give birth to 2 cubs, although some have been known to have three. What will become a potentially ferocious bear living 20-30 years, is born blind, a mere 8 inches long, with little hair, and no teeth

Hayden Valley, Mount Washburn, and the Lamar Valley in Yellowstone are favored areas to look for grizzly bears. They prefer open woodlands with good patches of green grass. Keep in mind, although there may be 700 to 1,000 grizzlies in the greater range of bear habitat in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, there are estimated to be only about 150 that live in, or frequent, the vast area of Yellowstone. So, if you wish to see grizzly bears, check with the park service to find the best place to view them.

If you are desperate to see a grizzly or any other bear up close, try camping out with an open can of tuna, a half-eaten hamburger, or any other food in your tent. Of course, this author, as well as the National Park Service, highly discourages this practice as we really don't want you to become one of the rare bear attack statistics in Yellowstone. **AD!**



Director's Column


by Dave Nutting



Now that we've gotten you thinking about being ravaged by grizzly bears, let me assure you that when we take you on a creation tour of Yellowstone, we won't feed you to the bears. We also won't send you to a high pinnacle in a storm to conduct electrical experiments. We have a great time but we don't get careless. Come join us!

What I really want to emphasize in this issue of **Think & Believe** is that we should not feed or sacrifice our children to the grizzly bears of media, secularism, and "higher education." Your children and grown students need to be adequately prepared to handle the multitude of attacks on their faith. Prepare them well, give them solid answers to evolutionary and godless challenges they will

face. Equip them with good "bear spray" and teach them how to use it. Facts are important, yes, but so is having a humble heart and knowing that they need to rely heavily on the Lord Jesus Christ to help them through the educational maze. They are in an unprecedented time where the world has been emboldened to tear them apart in their faith. If they disagree with the teacher or professor, they might be ridiculed or face academic discrimination. It has become worse now in this cancel-culture climate than ever before.

Not all teachers are that way, but there are plenty of rogue "bears" in the classroom. Some are outwardly vicious. Others destroy students' faith while smiling and genuinely thinking they are doing them a favor. The students need to be prepared for both, so you have your job cut out for you. Call us for help! 

Twin Peaks Family Mountain Creation Vacation

Canyons and Dino Museum tour included!

July 31 – August 5



Contact AOI or visit:
DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/family-camp-colorado/

Creation Training

Want to deepen your knowledge of Creation and/or learn to share with others? Join weekly online Zoom classes plus an optional in-person training week – tours included. Begins Jan.26 (Replays available.)

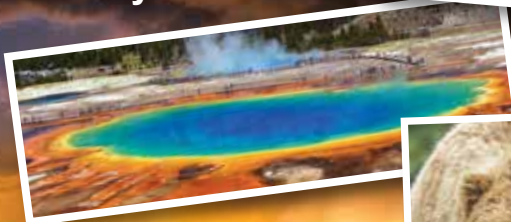
For details and/or to register visit:
DiscoverCreation.org/Training

Starts Soon!

Yellowstone Tour 2022

Aug. 26-30, Sep. 2-6

Creation seminar & bus tour of Yellowstone. Great for the entire family!



For more info visit:
www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/

Thank You!

Thank you to all of you who partner with us through prayer, finances, or volunteer work. You are much appreciated. If you are not currently an AOI ministry partner, please contact us for ways you can help.



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.DiscoverCreation.org
Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2022

