

# **Ask the Grizzly/ Brown Bear Guides**





*Alaskan brown bears attract hunters from all over the world. Here Roderick Wurfbain from England poses with his magnificent 10½-foot brown bear. (Safari Press photo library)*

# **Ask the Grizzly/ Brown Bear Guides**

**By J. Y. Jones**



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## Dedication

It is Easter Sunday 2008 as I pen the dedication for the fifth in this series of books. I am on a plane over Thailand, on my way to try to open up Nepal to Western hunters again for the first time in years. An acquaintance was unsuccessful in his attempt to do the same last year, and spent the better part of two weeks in a Katmandu hotel waiting to go hunting. Permission was never granted, however, and I am a bit apprehensive that the same fate could befall me. I have learned to trust in the God who delivers me from all troubles, though, and I am certain that whatever the outcome, it will be best in the long run.

I always, it seems, dedicate these *Ask the Guides* books to the people who really produce them, the guides and outfitters who have participated in the interview process. I also include those worthy top-echelon guides who, for one reason or another and through no fault of their own, were not included.

Additionally, I must single out the various game departments that are doing such a grand job of managing the subject animal, in this case brown bears and grizzlies. These animals are particularly well managed in Alaska and the Yukon, and to a lesser extent in the Northwest Territories. This last province gets high marks for its barren-ground grizzly program but a zero for its lack of management of the valuable interior grizzly of its western mountains. I would single out the government of British Columbia for a low ranking in this dedication, because of its extreme susceptibility to “ballot-box biology,” as one of the featured guides herein has termed it. The grizzlies there are being so lightly harvested that the population is, paradoxically, likely to suffer as bear-human conflicts increase, cub mortality skyrockets, and the population shifts toward older boar grizzlies. This situation dramatically suppresses the desired dynamic, an age-diverse population like those found in places where science-based management prevails.

Nobody knows what the future holds for hunting these great bears, but my own world view and my experience indicate that the right to hunt them will come under increasing attack. Traditional ties to the land and to stewardship of animal resources are

increasingly being forgotten, and hunter recruitment is at an all-time low. I feel so greatly blessed by God to have lived at a time when the art of the outdoors could be ingrained in me as a young boy, and then be lived out to the fullest over the course of my life. I believe the push for global vegetarianism may eventually spell the end of hunting and the way of life that is so precious to all hunters. Until that happens, I plan to keep right on hunting and teaching my grandchildren to do the same. It is for them that I work to keep our right to hunt and bear arms, for I have, for the most part, already had my day.

With these thoughts in mind, I add to this dedication the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, the North American Hunting Club, and all other organizations dedicated to fighting these disturbing trends leading away from our precious outdoor heritage.

I also dedicate this book to my family, for my wife, Linda, has given up countless hours of time with me so I could produce this work, and I have missed many grandkid events while I did interviews and typed them up. I love my two daughters, Amber and Rachael, and their husbands, Michael and Chris, more than I can say. And how could I possibly say how much I love my five grandchildren?

While the Himalayas loom ahead of me, I dedicate this book last, as always, to the triune God of the Bible, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who created the universe and all it contains, including this magical range of mountains that is the highest in the world. My Lord Jesus Christ also created *Ursus arctos* in all the animal's power and splendor. The bears mentioned in the Holy Bible are brown bears like those of North America, and are always symbols of power, though sometimes they are a mechanism of God's wrath against ungodly behavior. Most often they are under man's dominion in some way. If we voluntarily abrogate that God-ordained dominion, the future becomes highly uncertain for both humans and brown bears.

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## FOREWORD

In his series of books, of which this is one, that ask the various kinds of hunting guides around the world about matters important to hunters they accompany and the secrets to success on the hunt, J. Y. Jones provides a tremendous service to the hunting fraternity in general and to individual hunters personally. Simply put: Follow the advice of the guides included in this book, and any bear hunt will go better than it would absent attention to the salient details they provide.

In reading this book, it is abundantly clear that there are things a hunter must consider and do ahead of time that are intuitive, and then there are the not-so-obvious nuances. The secret is to address all of them. If, as they say, the devil is in the details, then it stands to reason that salvation is in the overall. Although details are important to address, it is the entire hunting experience that really matters. And the guides included in this book can literally help each hunter to realize at least his or her potential, and probably even more than that if the sportsman is willing to team-up and do it right.

J. Y. has included herein an all-star list of bear hunting guides, and that matters. It matters because these folks are the true experts. They have been there. They have done it. But more than that, they possess that rare ability to relay in meaningful and real terms what they have learned in a way that improves the experience for others.

Bears are incredible beasts. In North America I have hunted them from Alaska through Canada and all the way to where the southern end of the Rocky Mountains tails off into Mexico. I have hunted bears literally where Ben Lilly traipsed decades before, and have pursued the bruin in the exact area where the last of the California browns was taken earlier in the twentieth century.

There exists a culture of the bear hunt. To be able to appreciate this elevated state, it is crucial that the hunt itself be correct. Advice in this book can help any hunter, new or veteran, to have a better and more fulfilling experience. That in turn opens the door

to a higher and more complete appreciation and understanding of the bear itself.

In all of nature there is no animal quite like the bear. In some ways bears are much like we humans are. In other ways they represent some things that we wish we were. In all things, they are wonderment.

It is said among soldiers that there are no atheists in the foxhole. A similar thought might be applied to bears and those who truly hunt them properly. There simply is no way that a person can be in the presence of these magnificent beasts and not recognize, indeed celebrate, both the existence and the presence of the Creator.

For that, I join all of those who hunt the bear and give thanks. And thanks to J. Y. for his effort in this book, which provides the key to open this fascinating aspect of the natural world to those who wish to realize the epitome of pursuing one of nature's most perfect animals.

Steve Comus  
Director of Publications  
Safari Club International

## Introduction and Acknowledgments

It has indeed been a pleasure finding the right brown bear and grizzly guides, accumulating the needed interviews, putting together an astounding layout of photos, and then doing the hard, unseen work required thereafter. First, after each interview I typed up all the information myself, as I have with every one of my books. I never use a secretary and never press my business employees or my wife (who types rather well) into doing a single keystroke for me. As with my nine books that preceded this one, I have been the first and only typist. I also approach every interviewee in the *Ask the Guides* series myself, never depending on go-betweens or mutual friends.

However, there is one requirement that I have tried not to breach in any way: Either I must know the guide or outfitter I'm to interview on a personal basis and have been on a hunt with him, or else the outfitter must be strongly recommended by one of many hundreds of hunter-friends logged in my e-mail address book. Most, of course, fall into this latter category, because one can have personally hunted with only a limited number of guides. I believe I have recognized in this section every single person who has submitted a name, whether I was able to utilize the individual or not, and all of them are listed at the end of this section.

It has indeed been rare for an invited guide or outfitter to decline to participate in one of these books. In fact, only two guide/outfitters so far, out of queries to seventy-six, have declined to participate. One guide submitted to the interview (painstakingly typed up and edited by me) but had to be cut from the book because he either couldn't or wouldn't send me the required pictures.

How problematic the task of getting the featured guides and outfitters to send pictures has varied vastly. The extreme case was the individual above, who was cut out entirely from an early book in the series. Most have sent tons of pictures—from which I could choose only the best, a real pleasure for me. About a fourth of the interviewees required some degree of arm-twisting, particularly on the photo for their biographical page. Eventually all featured guides have sent in at least the minimum of a good head-and-shoulders photo of themselves, plus a kill photo. I make it clear up front, and

have them commit to it on tape, that I have permission to use their photos and interview in the book, and that they will send the photos. This has, by and large, worked out quite well.

There seems to be more interest in the big bears—or at least the guides are more verbose—than for the other animals featured in this series. This book has 25 percent more words than any of the others, in part because of the enthusiasm of the guides for the unique hunts they conduct for perhaps the grandest game animal in North America or the world. As well, many have harrowing tales of narrow escapes that take time to tell and dangerous situations that are painful to relate, and three featured guides have been mauled by either a grizzly (two) or a brown bear (one). Such incidents tend to be explained in greater depth, and I've let them tell their tales as they please with minimal attempts to limit their length. I believe the reader will find these many anecdotes riveting, entertaining, and thought-provoking.

A word on the book's layout is necessary. This is the most asymmetrical book in the series in terms of numbers of guides used for each section. By far the majority of hunts for *Ursus arctos* in North America are for the Alaskan brown bear, and more of these animals are harvested than any of the other categories. This is because these hunts generally offer a higher success rate and potential for a bigger bear.

Moreover, there are three distinct types of hunts for this bear, so I have included two experienced guides for each kind of hunt: two from the Alaska Peninsula, two from Kodiak Island, and two from southeastern Alaska. Each of these three hunts is distinctive, and the differences are brought out in the text. For two reasons, I interviewed only two guides for the coastal British Columbia grizzly bear: First, there aren't many outfitters for coastal grizzlies anymore because the province has ratcheted back its grizzly hunting, which is a result of pressure from an uninformed public willing to disregard scientific facts. This has driven at least one major outfitter to sell his area to an antihunting group, closing forever a superb, pristine

area that will soon have few females with cubs but a preponderance of large, cannibalistic adult males. The remaining British Columbia guides are severely restricted in the number of hunting permits they are issued annually.

Because of the diversity of terrain and the vast differences in hunting situations, I included three each for interior Alaska grizzlies and interior Canadian grizzlies (British Columbia and the Yukon). For the barren-ground grizzly, only a handful of which are taken by sport hunters annually and for which there is a lower level of diversity in hunting techniques and methods, I interviewed only one, Inuvialuit guide James Pokiak, who guided me to my own barren-ground grizzly in 1996.

In some instances there seems to be a great conflict in the answers given by the guides, even within the same section, especially regarding calibers, bullet construction, and recommendations. These differences are usually related to the terrain in which the guide operates, either wide open or close-quarters, so as you assess the usefulness of answers that appear to be at odds, please be cognizant of the different hunting situations represented in this book.

I acknowledge the following individuals for suggesting guides and outfitters for this book: Craig Boddington, Jimmy Rosenbruch, Ludo Wurfbain, Jerome Knap, Keith Atcheson, Darren DeLuca, Dave Fyfe, Jeff Neal, Eric Mikkelson, Brent Sinclair, and Terry and Ruth Wilkinson. If I missed anyone, please let me know and we'll make a correction in the second printing of the book.

Thank you for your interest in this book and the others in this series. The featured guides have over three hundred years of accumulated guiding experience, so the amount of studied observation is vast. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. May God bless you in your own hunting and watch over you in this sometimes dangerous passion we all hold so dear.





*You will spend a lot more time glassing than walking, so you cannot afford to buy anything but the best binoculars and boots. (Safari Press photo library)*



## Chapter 1

# MEET THE GRIZZLY/BROWN BEAR GUIDES

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It is with great pleasure that I introduce dedicated hunters everywhere to perhaps the best assemblage of grizzly/brown bear guides ever featured in one piece of literature.\* These guides are the most experienced group I could find, and each has guided for an average of more than twenty-five years. Most are still actively outfitting and guiding, though a couple of them are now retired. All possess a wealth of information to share, and what they have to say may open your eyes to a whole new world with respect to guide-client relations. I believe that anyone who has ever been on a guided hunt will find helpful information somewhere in the pages of this book.

These guides share a large number of characteristics in common with each other and with guides featured in other books in this series. They universally place a high premium on hunter ethics, honesty, integrity, hard work, patience, dependability, and persistence. They all desire their hunters to come well prepared in every possible way, and they go into great detail delineating how one goes about doing this. They have unique information to share, so the reader should never get bored.

These guides are truly excellent representatives of the outdoor fraternity, and I think you'll agree they all offer invaluable insights into the world of grizzly/brown bear hunting. I can't think of a sufficient way to repay them for imparting their wealth of experience to us, so thank them yourself when you see them . . . and enjoy the information here to the utmost!

\*Each guide can be found here in the sequence they appear in the book, with a brief summary of their backgrounds and experience, contact information, and a recent photograph. The material included here is taken directly from interviews with the guides and some cases from printed material they supplied. Most information in this book has been obtained by means of telephone interviews with each guide, and is essentially as they said it.

## Ask the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides



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Dennis Harms grew up in Wisconsin with a dream to hunt moose, bears, and other big game. He finished high school there, and in 1965 graduated from Wisconsin's South State University. He went to Alaska afterward and became a registered guide in 1968, guiding for virtually all available big-game species including walrus and polar bear. Besides running a few fishing camps, he has done no work other than guiding hunters.

He began guiding on Kodiak Island for brown bears in 1970 and continues to do so today. He also has vast experience in southeastern Alaska guiding for brown bears, starting in 1974 and finishing his operation there in 1991. The season dates were different enough that he was able to guide in both places each season. In southeastern Alaska he used boats—something of a tradition there.

From 1972 to 1988 he also operated a camp on the Alaska Peninsula, where he hunted primarily for moose and caribou, but he also guided and outfitted for Alaska Peninsula brown bears as well. He even has interior grizzly experience, spanning the years 1968–2000. Most of his interior grizzly experience came on mixed-bag hunts where the bears were taken incidentally, though he did take some hunters specifically for grizzly. He had one of the few Alaska Range horseback hunts, and took quite a few grizzly bears from that operation, which was directed at sheep, moose, and caribou in addition to bears.



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Dennis currently outfits on the Alitak Peninsula, the farthest southwest corner of Kodiak, a unique area in that it was the only part of the island not covered by glaciers during the Ice Age. Bears there have larger heads and slightly smaller bodies, as a rule, as compared to other Kodiak bears. His second area is also on the southwest part of Kodiak in the Frazier Lake area, where the bears have truly large bodies. His third area, the brushy country around Uganik Bay, is more difficult to hunt but produces some real monster brown bears.

Dennis has limited his operations in recent years to Kodiak brown bears, making him one of the few outfitters to do this. He has taken over three hundred brown bears for his clients and has personally been in on about seventy-five of those kills. He has nine brown bear permits for the spring hunt and two permits in the fall.

Dennis has been married to his wife, Cheryl, since 1962, and they have two daughters who are both physicians. His girls are married and have presented the Harms seniors with three grandchildren.

Dennis maintains an extensive hunting library and subscribes to virtually all the hunting magazines. He highly recommends two books by Marvin H. Clark Jr., *Last of the Great Brown Bear Men* and *Track of the Kodiak*. Another book he recommends is Harry Dodd's 2007 title, *Kodiak Island and Its Bears*, a volume filled with years of in-depth research.

## Ask the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides

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Butch King was born and raised in Anchorage, where his father owned a sporting-goods store and flew as a bush pilot. Butch started young in the guiding and outfitting business. In 1966 at age twelve he shot his first grizzly.

That same year he began working as a camp boy for legendary brown bear and polar bear guide Lee Holen. Holen owned the Wrangell Mountain Lodge and hunted polar bears out of Point Hope, Alaska, and he also owned Cinder River Lodge on the Alaska Peninsula.

Butch became a pilot in 1968 and finished high school in 1971. He then became a pilot-guide for Holen, working out of Cinder River Lodge. Holen retired in 1983, and Butch immediately bought his area and has owned it ever since. That area has expanded significantly since Butch bought out his neighbor, Keith Johnson, and added Wildman Lake Lodge to his guiding operation. Today Butch’s hunts for brown bear are conducted out of both these lodges, and he personally runs Wildman Lake Lodge. He has another highly experienced brown bear master guide running Cinder River Lodge, that being Brad Adams, who himself has almost twenty years in the business. His area starts at the north end of Amber Bay on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula and includes Mount Aniakchak, the highest volcano in this region, in the heart of the Aniakchak National Preserve. The area continues southward on the Pacific side to

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near the village of Perryville, excluding native lands. The line then crosses the peninsula to a place called Cape Cinnamon, where the walrus haul out frequently, on the Bristol Bay side, and then goes north to the mouth of the Cinder River. The area encompasses about two and a half million acres in total, as large as all of Kodiak Island.

Butch has outfitted hundreds of hunts for brown bear over the years, and additionally has guided some hunts for grizzly in the western Arctic and in the Wrangell Mountains. His hunters have taken more than three hundred fifty brown bears over the years “since we got computers,” and he carefully keeps records on each bear taken. He estimates that before computers and his current record-keeping system, he took perhaps an additional hundred brown bears, for a total of close to four hundred fifty kills. In addition to his brown bear operation, he runs an extensive sport-fishing business.

Butch isn't a big reader of the hunting literature, having experienced so many hunting adventures of his own. He does enjoy the renovated *Sports Afield* magazine, some of the magazines from Petersen's Publishing, and the Safari Club International magazine *Safari*.

He has been married to his wife, Kathy, for some sixteen years, and she helps with the daily operation of their guiding business. Butch has two daughters. He is one of the very few outfitters who actually lives in his guiding area during the spring, summer, and fall. After living through fifty Alaska winters, he now heads for the Lower Forty-Eight to live in more hospitable weather during the harshest time of the year in Alaska.

## Ask the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides

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Mike's parents started Munsey's Bear Camp back in 1956, the year he was born, and except for a stint in college Mike has lived in the camp his entire life. He started helping his father, master guide Park Munsey, in guiding hunters as soon as he was old enough. He got his own guiding license when he was only nineteen, bought the camp from his parents in 1980, and has been running it since that time. In 1996 Mike received his master guide license.

Mike and his wife, Robin, operate in Uyak Bay and Spiridon Bay on Kodiak Island. This is the same area in which Mike's father guided, and in 2006 the Munsey family celebrated fifty years of guiding, all in this same area.

Having been raised in the business, Mike was taught all facets of bear guiding by his father. His mother home-schooled Mike as well as his brother and sisters. During those years Mike would spend a half-day in class and the other half-day helping his father run his bear hunts. Mike went off to college at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and at the University of Hawaii, and then returned and bought the camp. He married Robin in 1984, and they have since been running Munsey's Bear Camp together.

Mike admits he doesn't keep an exact count but estimates he has personally guided hunters to well over a hundred brown bears through the years. He further estimates that over the

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fifty years Munsey's Bear Camp has been in business, almost one thousand bear hunters have taken about eight hundred Kodiak bears. Mike's operation takes twelve bear hunters per year, distributed in three areas: North Uyak, South Uyak, and Spiridon Bay.

Mike enjoys reading *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield*, and the magazine of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association.



*It is big country and it takes patience to find bears.* (Safari Press photo library)

## Ask the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides



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Scott Newman began guiding for brown bears in 1988, initially working for several other outfitters before starting his own business in 1992. He lives in Petersburg and guides primarily in the Admiralty Island area in southeastern Alaska. He has had a passion for bears since he was only six years old. He used to go to the town dump and watch the hulking animals, and he states that at this tender age he had already decided he wanted to be a bear guide.

When Scott was younger, he fished quite a bit commercially for halibut, salmon, and crab, and states matter-of-factly that after watching some forty-year-old fishermen, he decided he didn't want to be in their kind of shape when he reached their age! He is an instrument-rated commercial pilot and flew for several years before settling on the guiding business.

He grew up hunting brown bears and has taken about two hundred of the animals since starting his guiding operation. He has an allocation of ten brown bear hunters per year, but he also takes an occasional black bear.

Scott has three daughters ages four to fourteen, and his oldest girl has been developing into quite a hunter herself.

Scott isn't a big reader and feels that he knows more about bears than most people who write stories in the average magazine.

## Meet the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides



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Peter no longer actively guides for coastal grizzlies, but he did so for many years and still outfits hunts for the big bears. In addition, he has twenty-five years of experience as a commercial fisherman. Peter was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, and went to

the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He is married and has a daughter and a son; his son is an active guide who, Peter hopes, will someday take over the family business.

After guiding and fishing for most of his life, Peter purchased an extensive guiding area on the British Columbia coast north of Vancouver. His area parallels the center of Vancouver Island and runs northward to the same latitude as the northern tip of that island. Extending inland a long way, it encompasses seven to eight thousand square miles.

Peter has personally guided clients to more than twenty coastal grizzlies since purchasing the area in 1995, but several guides who work for him have taken many more. Over the years before he obtained the area, it produced perhaps hundreds of bears for hunters. His operation is now on a very conservative quota system, and he takes a maximum of five grizzly hunters per year.

## Ask the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides

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Guiding for Alaska brown bears has been a way of life for Alisha “Mutts” Rosenbruch-Decker since she was a small child. She readily states that she has never known, or wanted to know, any other way of life.

Mutts was raised in a hunting camp, so her initiation into brown bear hunting was all-encompassing and complete. Her family operation, Glacier Guides, Inc., operates in Southeast Alaska on the famous “ABC” islands of Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof. These islands boast phenomenal concentrations of brown bears. Admiralty Island, in fact, has the highest density of brown bears in the world, nearly 2.5 per square mile.

Mutts was home-schooled aboard the family vessel at sea, with schedule adjustments so she could be involved in the field. She began classes in early July and was finished in time to be off during the spring bear season. From the time she was eight, Mutts was in the field every day of bear season. For the next ten years she was involved in every aspect of the hunt—skiff tending, trophy judging, stalking techniques, area familiarity, skinning, and learning to adjust to individual client needs and abilities.

At age eighteen, the earliest she could apply, the state of Alaska issued her an assistant guide license, and again at the earliest possible age (twenty-one) she received her registered guide license. In truth, by that time Mutts had over thirteen



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years of brown bear hunting-guiding experience. Despite her vast experience, she cannot receive a master guide license until she has twelve years of experience as a registered guide, and that is still a few years away at her young age.

She is following in the footsteps of her parents, Jimmie C. and MaryAnn Rosenbruch, who both hold Alaska master guide licenses, as does her brother, Jimmie “Bud” Rosenbruch. At age sixteen she received the Safari Club International’s Young Hunter of the Year award. In 2008 Mutts was the recipient of SCI’s North American Professional Hunter of the Year award, which her father, Jimmie, had received back in 2001, making them the first-ever father-daughter team to achieve this honor. In March of 2005 Mutts was the first woman ever to appear on the cover of *Outdoor Life*, where she was named as one of North America’s top female guides.

In the offseason Mutts and her husband of eight years, Zach Decker, operate their Wildlife Heritage Taxidermy business. Mutts went to taxidermy school to improve the quality of her personal mounts, and this led to their business. They specialize in life-size dioramas of Alaskan trophies, and they also do dioramas and habitat displays for the Rosenbruch World Wildlife Museum in St. George, Utah ([www.rosenbruch.org](http://www.rosenbruch.org)). Hunting is clearly her passion, and she and Zach are dedicated to continuing the family legacy.

Mutts is a life member of the NRA and SCI, and she regularly reads *American Hunter*, *Safari*, and *Safari Times*. She also reads the *Alaska Professional Hunter* magazine. She recommends Craig Boddington’s book *The Perfect Shot—North America* for information on correct shot placement and animal anatomy.

## Ask the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides

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Tracy Vrem is a native Alaskan whose father came there in 1948 from North Dakota looking for a higher-paying job. He and Tracy's mother drove up the Alcan Highway to start a new life. Tracy has three siblings, and his oldest brother, Kelly, is also a master guide.

His father is now retired, but his mother has been the cook for his operation since he purchased it. Tracy married his wife, Linda, also a native Alaskan, in 1995, and they have three children.

Tracy had a best friend whose father, George Needels Sr., had a hunting operation on the Alaska Peninsula. Tracy was able to spend two weeks there in October every year during high school in the 1970s, doing odd jobs such as washing dishes, working on skins and capes taken by clients, and cleaning ptarmigan. Tragically, his good friend George Needels Jr. and George's sister Terri died in a Super Cub crash in 1978, devastating their parents and all who knew them.

Tracy guided his first brown bear hunt for George Sr. in 1979, when he was only nineteen years old, taking a client from Germany. He readily admits that he had an awful lot to learn back then. However, he enjoyed such experiences so much that he decided to make guiding his life's work. He bought the entire operation from Needels just four years later, in 1983. His guiding area is in Unit 9E and extends from the Pacific Ocean to Bristol Bay, taking in the drainages of Becharof and Upper Ugashik Lakes.

## **Meet the Grizzly/Brown Bear Guides**

Tracy has vast hunting experience for all species in Alaska, but most of his time has been spent on the Alaska Peninsula. He has personally guided almost fifty hunters to brown bears, and his operation has produced more than two hundred fifty of these trophy animals. He is permitted to take thirteen bears on the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof Refuge, and to take from one to three bears from state land every bear season.

As for his literary preferences, he reads all the documents produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Tracy also reads several hunting magazines for entertainment, though he states he seldom gets any new knowledge of brown bears from such articles.