

The Chronicles of Spud and Buttercup

Underestimating Raccoons

Editor's note: Buttercup recently moved from San Diego to live with her boyfriend who she met at a bar in Mammoth Lakes. He grabbed her attention by licking her face which, in turn, sparked a long-distance relationship for about a year before she found a job and moved To Mammoth. These are the couple's true stories as Buttercup learns the ways of the Eastern Sierra.

One of our friends, Jacob, who lives in Paradise, shared one of his secrets with us recently: Raccoons are ruining his life.

Apparently, one particular fat raccoon destroys his yard on a nightly basis and he's sick of it. Every morning, Jacob wakes up to big, ugly holes dug out in his yard.

He's been trying to get rid of the pesky animal, but his attempts of relocating and scaring him have failed.

Jacob went on and on about how smart this one particular fat one was, but I took his words with a grain of salt.

A raccoon? Smart? I mean, come on! How smart can they really be?

Jacob was going out of town one weekend and asked Spud, our buddy Chadwick and me if we could "take care of the raccoon" while he's gone.

Because we're awesome friends, we agreed to help out.

The Stake Out

Spud, Chadwick and myself arrived at the house before dusk to get settled in. We've been to the house before so it's not like we needed a tour.

We quickly settled in, sent Jacob on his way and started to watch a movie.

Jacob said the fat raccoon typically comes out at 10 p.m.

Naturally, we drank wine as we enjoyed the film and waited until the witching hour.

It was nearing 10 p.m., and the movie was about half over when I noticed Spud missing from the room.

I

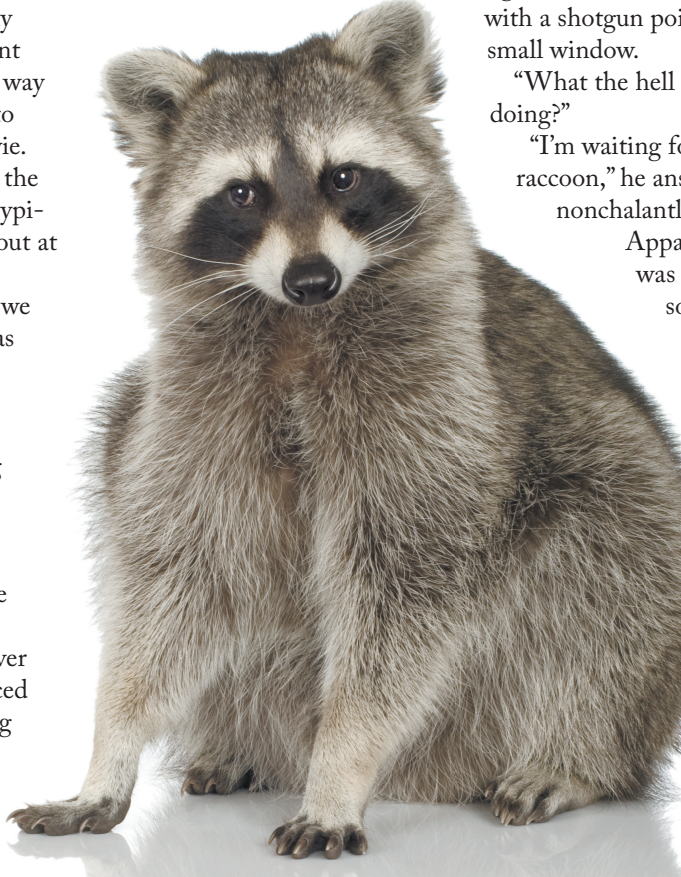
paused the movie and Chadwick and I went to find him.

As I turned the corner from the kitchen into the hallway, I found him sitting on a stool hunched over with a shotgun pointing out a small window.

"What the hell are you doing?"

"I'm waiting for the raccoon," he answered nonchalantly.

Apparently Spud was going to try something Jacob had failed in trying: killing the animal.



Spud, excited to shoot the raccoon's head off, even sprinkled salami, dog treats and cheese in the yard to lure him in.

Brilliant. There's no way the raccoon could say no to free treats.

Chadwick and I joined Spud in the stake out and we took turns with the shotgun.

We sat there and waited for our prey.

And we waited.

And we waited some more.

An hour and half into it, I got bored and suggested to open another bottle of wine.

And then we waited some more.

We waited for three hours and the raccoon never showed up.

Maybe he was out ravaging another yard that night.

We were persistent and we tried again the next night, but our plan didn't change much. The only thing that was different was that we turned off the lights to make it look like no one was home.

And we ran out of wine.

Jacob returned Sunday night and so did the raccoon.

The raccoon obviously knew what we were up to.

Spud said he'll leave out more salami next time.



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Mammoth Lakes 2011

SUMMER OF STEWARDSHIP TRAIL DAYS

MAMMOTH LAKES
TRAIL SYSTEM

Inyo Craters

Help spiff up a landmark feature of Mammoth Lakes with a morning of trail and recreation-site enhancement!

WHAT: Trail and trailhead improvements, trash pickup, and related tasks, followed by lunch and raffle prizes for volunteers.

WHEN: **SATURDAY, August 13**
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

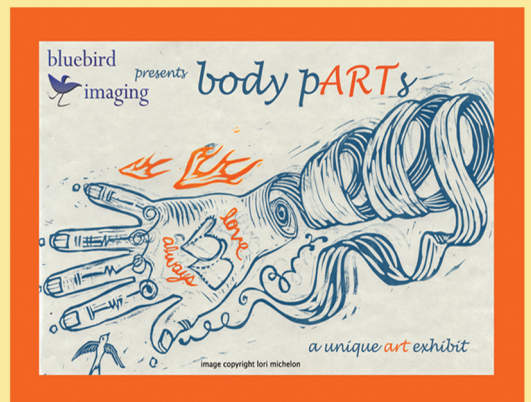
WHERE: Meet in the Inyo Craters parking area. Please carpool!

WHO: Volunteers of all ages and abilities! Work attire (close-toed shoes, long pants/shirt) is required; sun and bug protection recommended.

Breakfast
donated by:



Trail days may be added as the summer progresses, so check www.mltpa.org, e-mail explore@friendsoftheinyo.org, or call (760) 873-6500 for the latest info.



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**join us for 2 receptions
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artists reception saturday, august 13, 2011

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