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## Rascally Coons At Grams and Gramps

**Raccoon Problem** These critters had been, and are, a real pain in the you-know-what for Grams “Cindy” and Gramps “Mike” Walker. The problem appeared a few years after they built their 1997 Hugo home and started watering. A raccoon's most distinctive features are its extremely dexterous front paws, almost like

hands, and its bandit’s mask. Adult coons in Hugo average 10 to 25 pounds, but can get larger. Gramps had seen 40 - 60 pounders in California.



**History** During the hard dry SW Oregon’s summers coons naturally viewed

unnaturally watered areas as their own oasis of grub and fruit. Over the years their dogs had treed coons and many scary encounters had occurred. They were exceptionally fierce fighters when cornered by their dogs that wanted to harass and/or attack them without regard for safety. There were many stories about coons with rabies, including serious wounds to dogs, including loss of their eyesight.

Over the years the coons were destructive to the Walker’s lawns, gardens, and cherry trees. After 8 years of landscape damage and worry for their dogs, Gramps finally, reluctantly, killed 3 out of a pack of 5 in 2011.

A BB pistol arrived after 2013 when the coons had returned. Gramps thought his BBs might be a pain in the buttocks for the coons. Grams became active in gardening and a new rose garden after she retired.

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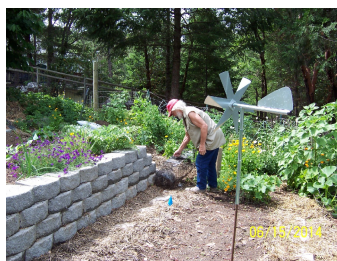
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## Nocturnal Coon Visits During 2013 & 2014

**2014 Garden Damage** During early June coon damage to the Walker’s good looking vegetables finally got Grams on the warpath. She just hated her onions being ripped out of their homes in the ground while the coons were digging for insects and worms, and she bought a cage.

**Coons 3 - Humans 0** She baited the cage with marshmallows and peanut butter for three days, but no coons captured even though their hunt for food was noted each day in the torn up garden.

**Father’s Day, Sunday, June 15** The Walkers were preparing to visit Grams’s folks, Jan and Chuck Stull when Grams went to the garden to harvest some radishes for a salad, and had a long stare-off with a 12 pound bandit’s mask. She came back into the house and asked Gramps, “What are we going to do with that coon in the cage?” Gramps was so surprised.



After the fact he understood why their dogs, black Deeno and tan Pebbles, woke him up three times the night before to be let outside.

In Gramps’s view the objective was to permanently remove the coon from their home place. He felt they had to kill it or move it far from home hopping it would not come back. In this case, even with all the pros and cons, he felt he did not have a choice (ORS 498.012(6)(c)). Growler was euthanized,

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## Razor Sharp “Hand” Claws, Great Eye Sight, & Smart

**ORS 498.012(1) Taking Wildlife Causing Damage, Posing Public Health Risk or That Is Public Nuisance** Nothing in the wildlife laws is intended to prevent any person from taking any wildlife that is causing damage, is a public nuisance or poses a public health risk on land that the person owns or lawfully occupies.



**ORS 498.012(6)(c) Taking Wildlife That Is Public Nuisance** Public nuisance means loss of or harm inflicted on gardens, ornamental plants, ornamental trees, pets, vehicles, boats, structures or other personal property. However, relocating raccoons is illegal in Oregon (*Living With Urban Wildlife: Raccoons*; Audubon Society of Portland).

**Re-baited** The next day Grams had the cage re-baited waiting for another visitor. The moral to this story is don’t mess with a gal’s vegetables.

## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: [hugo@jeffnet.org](mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org)  
Web: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

### Hugo Neighborhood Officers

Liz Butowitsch, Treasurer  
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Wayne McKy, Chair  
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Mike Walker, Education Chair  
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### Hugo Story Telling Program

Jon Whalen, Story Teller Chair  
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Karen Rose, Co-Web Master  
Mike Walker, Co-Web Master



**Walker Clan: 2013**

**Story Tellers**  
Grams "Cindy,"  
Grams "Mike,"  
with Black Deeno, &  
Tan Pebbles  
Walker

Brochure 2 in Hugo's Story Telling Brochure Series

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## RASCALLY COONS AT GRAMPS & GRAMS

Brochure 2 Of Hugo's  
Story Telling Brochure Series



**Growler At Taylor Creek Just Before Released**

Cindy thought, "*Racoons are so darn cute, especially the babies, but don't mess with my vegetables.*"

**June 15, 2014**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**