

FIGHTING ANIMAL INSTINCT

Watertown man's cans keep bears' claws out of the trash



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Kevin Lacilla, owner of BEARicuda, shows off his bear-proof garbage can outside his home in Watertown. The BEARicuda Stealth Can prevents wild animals from breaking in and spreading the contents across lawns.

BY LARAINÉ WESCHLER
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WATERTOWN — It looks just like a regular trash can, and that's the point.

But unlike a normal garbage receptacle, the BEARicuda Stealth Can prevents wild animals — from bears to raccoons to squirrels — from breaking in and spreading the contents across the front lawn.

“There’s a serious problem in many parks and communities where they don’t want to kill these bears, but they want to recondition their behav-

ior,” said BEARicuda owner Kevin Lacilla of Watertown.

Lacilla said it’s his job to let bears know that food sources don’t exist in residential areas.

The business was born out of another Lacilla owned for 20 years, Doing Away With Grime, or DAWG, which made spill-control products. He was inspired to create the spin-off company after a customer asked whether a spill-containment product could be used to fend off bears.

When he sold DAWG in 2007, he kept the concept of the bear-proof trash can and

worked to develop a new line of products. The company also makes wooden trash can enclosures and large metal, Dumpster-style trash bins.

BEARicuda’s products are tested at the Living With Wildlife Foundation in West Yellowstone, Mont., where captive bears are trained to break into cans baited with food. A video on BEARicuda’s website, www.bearicuda.com, shows a bear picking up the can in its arms, pushing, prodding and tearing at it, to no avail. The can re-



BEAR PROOF

Kevin Lacilla’s BEARicuda garbage cans are priced from \$69 to \$260 and use strong plastic. Steel is wrapped around the top part of the bin, with a hidden metal latch that makes it easy for human fingers but not for big, furry paws to open.

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