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Message from the Curator

Now that another year has gone by it's once again time to look back at some of the happenings in the bigfoot world, to see if we've made any progress towards solving this mystery.

Here's a list of some of the happenings:

- Tom Biscardi's Paris Texas expedition and media circus "We're gonna catch a Bigfoot." This debacle was largely made into a non-event due to the occurrence of a major storm. Luckily it has not resulted in a reality TV show as Biscardi claimed it might.

- Jeff Meldrum's announcement of the "Relict Hominoid Inquiry" at the first Bigfoot Discovery Day. He said it will be an e-journal featuring scholarly articles with peer review, as well as a less formal newsletter. It will be hosted on the University of Idaho Web Server; he'll be the chairman and there will a 16 person advisory board made up of scientists and other specialists. (At the Discovery Day lecture Jeff also told of two other of his projects- creating an archive of 3-D virtualization of footprint evidence and his next book Giganto: the Real King Kong.)



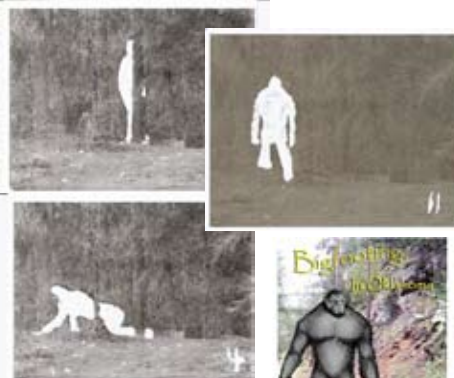
Slide from Jeff Meldrum's lecture in Santa Cruz.

- The publication of Meldrum's "Ichnotaxonomy of Giant Hominid Tracks in North America" in which the Patterson bigfoot's tracks are given the name *Anthropoidipes ameriborealis*.

- BF Discovery Museum and BFRO member Bart Cutino's thermal camera sighting in Washington of a seven foot tall athletic and animated bigfoot.



Bart near the spot where he saw the bigfoot with a thermal camera; below are some recreations of some of the activity he observed, done with opaquing fluid. Photo by Tom Yamarone (above) Bart Cutino (below)



Bart says the bigfoot depicted in this illustration (right) comes close to the body shape. (DVD available on Amazon.com)



- The DNA test results and hair sample analysis on the new TV show **MonsterQuest**, in an episode called "Sasquatch Attack?"

A remote fishing cabin near a Canadian lake was vandalised very severely by someone or something. Bigfoot like experiences and tracks were reported by fisherman who had rented the cabin. The property owner put out a sheet of plywood riddled with upward pointed screws in front of the cabin door to discourage a repeat visit by the vandal, believed to be a bear.

Something stepped on this "unwelcome mat," leaving hair, blood and tissue.



Dr Lynn Rogers, a wildlife biologist and bear expert declared the hair sample collected from the unwelcome mat "looked human, with two important differences: no medula (spongy central core) and a naturally worn, tapered tip... Like it came from a wild human!"



Lynn Rogers commenting on the hair sample as looking like it came from a "wild human" (above) Microscopic view of the hair tip, showing the taper (below). Photos ©2007 Whitewolf Entertainment (col 3 and masthead)



Biologist Curt Nelson extracted DNA from a sample of blood removed from the same mat. He announced it was "identical to human DNA except it had one nucleotide polymorphism; the nucleotide that is different is one that is shared with chimpanzees... I got primate DNA" [that was almost but not quite human.]

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2007 – A Bigfooting Year in Review

by Tom Yamarone

What a year it's been! I wanted to share some more photos from 2007 and have a quick review of my bigfooting highlights. It's been a pleasure to share these experiences with you throughout the year in the newsletters.



Jeff Meldrum, Bart Cutino at Bigfoot Discovery Day.



Scott McClean, Susan Hargrove and Mark Stenberg in front of the museum.



Tom Yamarone, Mike Rugg and Daniel Perez

June was the early highlight with Bigfoot Discovery Day and Dr. Jeff Meldrum visiting the museum and presenting at a lecture event in Santa Cruz, CA. A great group of bigfooters came from all over California to be there and the weekend went off without a hitch. We enjoyed a fun-filled evening at Mike and Paula's home, a fantastic barbeque lunch and afternoon at the museum and a sold-out evening event at the Loudon Nelson Center in Santa Cruz. Looking forward to doing it all again next year!



Montra and John Freitas demonstrate call blasting equipment at Operation Odyssey II.

All photos by Tom Yamarone (pgs 2 and 3).



The Sunday morning group at Operation Odyssey II.

Our trip in August to see Bob Gimlin and other friends had to be the highlight of the year! Not only did we get to go squatchin' in some beautiful country, but we spent 4 days with Bob and a bunch of great folks from Washington. And we capped it off with Bart Cutino's thermal imaging sighting of a bigfoot watching our camp!

Then there was October and the Patterson-Gimlin Film 40th Anniversary Celebration in Willow Creek. Museum members Joyce Kearney, Scott McClean, Cliff Barackman, James "Bobo" Fay, Bart Cutino, Mark Stenberg, Ralph Jack and myself put on one heck of a gathering and then topped it with two nights out at Louse Camp on Bluff Creek!

The year also included time for several outings with Mark Stenberg in the Sierras (March), Ralph Jack up in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (June), back there again with Bobo and Cliff (July), a night out with Bob Strain high in the Sierras south of Lake Tahoe (September) and a BFRO expedition



Our camp in Washington - the site where Bart stood watching the bigfoot!



Cliff Barackman and Tom

with most of the people already mentioned in the Sierras (November).

2008 promises much of the same and we can only hope for the chance to document some action to share with the rest of you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Jamie Jackson, Mark Stenberg, Bob Gimlin, James "Bobo" Fay and Paul Graves



Bob Gimlin and Bobo



Ralph Jack, David Murphy, Sean Fries, Daniel Perez, Eric Altman and Dave McCullough.

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According to the narration, the creature at Snell Lake in Ontario, that left hair, blood and tissue on the unwelcome mat was either a *genetically mutated man* or a *yet to be discovered animal*. Apes share 388 base pairs with man except 35 base pairs deviations, one of which was present on the Snell Lake creature; Nelson gave the DNA a one in 5000 chance of being human.

• The controversial Jacobs game camera photos that made the news all over the world. See the BFRO.net forum for more discussion as well as www.bigfootforums.com for much pro and con discussion as to whether the photos show a sick bear, an ape, or as the BFRO claims "a juvenile bigfoot." To see the photos: go to www.bfro.net/avevid/jacobs/jacobs_photos.asp



• The 40th Anniversary of the Patterson-Gimlin Film and its status as still unbunked and continuing to yield proof of its reality. M.K. Davis produced closeup enhanced images from the film that to him suggest that the creature is more likely to be some type of human rather than just a bipedal ape. He teamed up with videographer John Johnsen to produce a DVD wherein they put forth some new alternative theories of how the Sasquatch may have come to North America. Davis also mentioned he is working on a book that will feature this research.

• Mysterious ice mounds being discussed at length on the BFRO forum. To learn more: www.bfro.net/news/roundup/sierras_2005_snow_mounds.asp



Robert Leiterman with bark covered snowmound photo by Bart Cutino

• The tracks found in the Himalayas by the TV show "Destination Truth."



Crew member and Joshua Gates (Cryptomundo)

Nine members of the television production team, armed with infrared cameras, spent a week in the icy Khumbu region near where Mount Everest expeditions had passed in the 1950s. On November 28, 2007 the film crew found the footprints of what they claimed to be a Yeti on the banks of the Manju River. Host and producer Joshua Gates held a news conference on December 1st in Nepal, and showed the media the casts of two of the three footprints that had been found. The complete footcast (seen above) is about one foot (30 centimeters) long, with an appearance similar to those of other tracks of unknown hominoids found in Asia. (from Cryptomundo)



Deaths within the bigfoot community

Archie Buckley, an early and important member of the Bay Area Group - the Bigfoot researchers of the San Francisco Bay area - died on June 18, 2007. In Season Three of "In Search of" with Leonard Nimoy, Archie appeared with his fellow BAG Bigfooters, in Episode #57, entitled "Monster Hunters," first aired on November 9, 1978. The documentary television program showed them searching for Bigfoot in northern California, and Archie became a media star - for one show. He never appeared in any future Sasquatch documentaries, and he and members of BAG melted into the forests, after that. (from Cryptomundo.com)

Daris Swindler professor of Anthropology and former instructor in human anatomy Cornell University Medical College who authenticated the heel print from the Skookum cast. "This is a well-pronounced, well-developed tendon of Achilles...this was a bipedal animal. In my opinion the Skookum body cast is that of an upright descendent of Gigantopithecus." Swindler lent his forensic expertise to work on several high-profile murder cases, including helping to identify human remains in the Ted Bundy and the Green River killer investigations. He was overcome by complications from treatment for lung cancer on December 6, 2007, at age 82.

Margaret M Rugg, my mother and unselfish supporter of the Bigfoot Discovery Project, died in the family cabin in Felton, California on October 9, 2007. She was 101. A silent believer in bigfoot, she gave her full support to the efforts to develop a center for scientific exploration into mysteries and wonders such as bigfoot on her property in Felton, which will continue to be the home of the Bigfoot Discovery Museum.



Monthly Meeting Schedule and Topics for 1st half of 2008

We had a steering committee meeting to plan the first 6 meetings of next year. This is the basic list of the meetings between January and June:

Sunday, **January 20**, 2008 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Staff Assignments

Local Report Update and Discussion

Bigfoot News in General

Pot-luck (or pizza) Dinner. BYO Snacks and Drinks.

Sunday, **February 17**, 2008 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Bigfoot field research - organize 2008 outings and other plans.

Field equipment - members demonstrate personal equipment

Pot-luck (or pizza) Dinner. BYO Snacks and Drinks.

Saturday, **March 15**, 2008 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Bigfoot Documentary Night - two classic documentaries to be shown

"Mysterious Monsters" (hosted by Peter Graves) and "Bigfoot"(A&E channel, hosted by Leonard Nimoy)

Come enjoy some good company at Redwood Pizza in Felton.

\$5 donation suggested...we'll discuss the shows, bigfoot news and raffle some rare bigfoot books.

Friday, **April 18** - Sunday, **April 20**, 2008

Group Camping Trip / Bigfoot Outing

Location to be determined at the February meeting.

(this outing will replace the monthly meeting.

Details will be posted at the museum and distributed to museum members. Hope you can join us!)

Saturday, **May 24**, 2008 9:00 a.m.

Felton's Memorial Day Parade - "Felton Remembers"

The museum will host an information table in the park at the festival.

If there's interest, we can have a barbeque at the museum later that day.

Saturday, **June 28**, 2008

The 2nd Annual Bigfoot Discovery Day

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. barbeque at the museum,
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. lecture event in Santa Cruz, CA.

Details to be determined - please mark your calendars.

The above indicates the "business" aspect of each meeting. We also intend to invite more guest speakers to our meetings and have more events associated with meetings that might attract new members and volunteers. Our hope is that next year's meetings will be more variegated and dynamic. We also hope to achieve a firmer commitment from members to act as staff.

-- Michael Rugg