



Site of the Jeff Meldrum lecture in Santa Cruz

www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

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**Message from the Curator**



Now that Jeff Meldrum has agreed to come and speak in Santa Cruz, our first ever **Bigfoot Discovery Day** will soon be a reality. Unlike some of our previous events, this special day will be heavily promoted. We already have a couple of radio interviews set up to promote the event, and at the **Felton Remembers Parade May 26**, we'll have a banner on the minivan announcing BDDay, and we'll be distributing handbills as well. Many of you will be receiving an email including a PDF flyer that you can print out, make copies and distribute (OK?)

You can see by the photos that the venue is quite nice, as the room we'll be using normally serves as a cafeteria, or multi-purpose room. It is located in a primarily residential area, as can be seen in the aerial view above, so the main drawback is the



absence of a parking lot. Carpooling is suggested. Also, the room is designed to hold a maximum of 127 people. At the present time we have sold nearly 40 tickets, so if you want to be sure to have a seat you'll want to reserve a space in advance, as publicity will be picking up dramatically now. Everybody that is planning to be at the lecture needs to get a reserved ticket, including helpers.

We plan to have a BBQ lunch available for sale, while Jeff is signing books and plaster casts at the museum. We'll need help with the food and drink and greeting fellow bigfooters, as well as the public, in Felton between 11 and 3. Helpers will be needed in Santa Cruz starting at 5:30, so the event can start promptly at 6:30, and to help put things back to normal between 9 and 9:30.

We also would like too have a raffle in association with the event, to help with fund-raising. We're asking members to donate items that can serve as raffle prizes. Bigfoot items are of course the best: books, toys, casts, DVDs and so forth. Maybe some of you bigfoot collectors out there have some duplicate items on hand that you could let go for the good of the "cause."

In case anyone's lost track, the CAUSE is about educating the public with the facts, the search for bigfoot evidence, and doing our part to document the *local* BF through the establishment of a network of observers and investigators, with the ultimate goal of locating—or creating—a habituation scenario.

The plan for the lecture night is to have at least an hour for folks to mingle, munch on some refreshments that we'll have available for sale, and meet Meldrum and the other bigfooters in attendance. There is also a nice deck and lawn area where folks can mingle outside as well. After the event, we may have a gathering for visiting members at Mike and Paula's home near the museum and the local camping and RV parks... sit around a camp fire and sing bigfoot songs and so forth?



There may still be some camping spaces available in Henry Cowell Campground, as they don't allow alcohol. The photo below gives a feel of the campsites, located on Graham Hill Road, above the day use part of



the park near Mike's house and the museum. So, the first **Bigfoot Discovery Day** should be a great event... come, be with us and help make it so!

**New items available for purchase:**  
*Operation Nightscream* DVD John Freitas  
*Harry and the Hendersons* DVD Amblin  
*Supernatural California* by Preston Dennett  
*Strange Indiana Monsters* by Michael Newon  
*Josh Howard presents Sasquatch* - a 250 page anthology featuring stories by dozens of independent comic book artists/writers

**A Quick Review of California Bigfoot Reports in 2006**

**by Tom Yamarone**

There hasn't been much news from the field, from friends or from afar. And no news is not good news – at least, we don't think so. Everyone is always clamoring for some news where bigfoot is concerned. Well, it's just a quiet period, I suppose. Indeed, a quick glance at several bigfoot report databases reveals that April and May are quiet months. I wonder why? In any case, things should be picking up as people start getting out. I don't think there's any kind of "drop-off" in the numbers of reports, either. I remember reading something last year that implied these creatures might not be in California any more because there wasn't the same activity observed on outings last year. I checked my notebook and found there was actually plenty of activity in California last year. Believe me, considering the percentage of bigfoot sightings and incidents that are actually reported (that estimate varies between 5 and 10%), I am thrilled when we can look back on last year and report three sightings (two of them very good ones) and a half dozen compelling strange animal sounds reports. Let's take a quick glance at what happened in 2006.

There was a sighting of a creature crossing Highway 299 east of Redding, CA in January. The conditions were less than optimal but the man was certain of what he observed

– a large, dark figure crossing the highway ahead of him on two legs. Let's agree to never find these road crossing sightings mundane although there is little more to add. It was dusk, drizzling and the clouds hung close to the highway, yet his headlights happened to catch this creature crossing the highway.

There's a lack of anything substantial until the summer months and then reports of sounds and encounters increase. The BFRO database lists two daylight sightings and both are very compelling accounts.

The first occurred in Mono County, California just south of the town of Mammoth Lakes. On June 17, 2006 a man was driving back down from Laurel Lake on a 4-wheel drive road at a very low speed. A few hundred feet ahead of his vehicle, he observed a large, hair covered creature amble across the road. He had a clear view of the long arms swinging as it moved in a fluid motion crossing the road and disappearing into the trees. Moments later, it appeared again, this time seeming to walk in a delicate, manner back in the direction it had originally passed. He said it seemed to be walking in a careful manner and was very deliberate with each step. He waited a few minutes and then continued on to the spot where the creature had crossed the road. He looked for it but did not see it.

When he glanced to his left, he noticed a couple in the meadow who were having lunch. He surmised that this creature had chanced upon the couple in the meadow and was



making a quiet retreat when he observed it a second time. There was also another vehicle approaching up the road that may have caused it to retreat as well. Without any means to determine what caused it to behave as it did, this is still an excellent observation.

The next daytime sighting occurred October 21, 2006 along Highway 101 just south of the town of Orick, CA in Humboldt County. A woman was driving back to the bay area that Sunday morning with her infant daughter asleep in the backseat when she observed two creatures in a lagoon along the road. Initially she believed these were two people fishing until she got within 60 yards or so and noticed the auburn and brown hair covering the creatures. One was squatting with its back to the highway and attempting to grab something in the water while the other had turned towards her and was beginning to stride out of the lagoon. She had an excellent opportunity to observe these two bigfoot



as she had slowed her vehicle down as she approached them. She observed the face of the one standing up and reported the skin around the mouth and eyes as a light brown, cream color. This is an excellent report from an area known for bigfoot sightings.

The other events in California last year were fairly compelling sound incidents involving people in isolated areas hearing loud screams. One occurred when a mother was out with her two young children at a lake in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. She was at Lake Moran in Tuolumne County on July 3, 2006 when she began hearing a whooping call coming from the forest across the small lake. Over the next fifteen minutes the calls were getting closer and louder and she quickly herded her children back to their car and fled the area.

I took a report from a young man who was out in his forested backyard in Twain Harte, CA in November 2006. It was 1 a.m. and he heard someone walking back in the woods behind his home. At that moment, his dog began to growl and he reported that the walking sounds ceased and the sound of snapping branches and a large howl emanated from the woods. He retreated into his home and observed more sounds as the animal walked back further into the woods.

There are two footprint discoveries that I know of as well in the last year in California. One occurred on July 2, 2006 and we discovered this event because the person wrote it up in the

journal at the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum in Willow Creek, CA. He also left a phone number and I was able to talk with him after I returned from a camping trip up that way. He has a plaster cast and photographs of the tracks he found near the small town of Hyampom, CA. I have been unable to meet him to see the evidence he has but I hope to do so at some point this summer.

The other footprint evidence comes from the Crescent City, CA area. Two hunters were deep in a creek watershed hours from the nearest road when they came upon a few footprints between boulders in the sand along the creek. They got plaster in town and made a cast of one of the prints. This occurred last August. I hope to meet this man this weekend and to be able to photograph his footprint cast. He is a friend of a witness I met last November (see last December's museum newsletter) in Hiouchi, CA in Del Norte County.

There are several more sightings and sound events that are not yet published to the public database, but these indicate that bigfoot creatures are alive and living in the forests of California. Let's hope the people that have encounters with these creatures in 2007 might be able to document evidence of the incident in the form of video, photographs or audio recordings.



### **Felton Remembers Parade 2006**

Next week, the town of Felton, CA will hold their annual Memorial Day

parade. It's a little snippet of Americana – one of those simple town parades down “Main Street” featuring the fire trucks, vehicles turned into floats and convertibles with local politicians. There are a couple of equestrian groups and plenty of classic cars, too. One of the vehicles turned float will be featuring a bigfoot model sitting smack in the back of a white mini-van with its



head popping through the roof! Yes, we reported on this event last year and for the 3rd year in a row, the Bigfoot Discovery Museum will be represented.

Here are some photos from last year. It was a very fun day in Felton – and the small civic fair after the parade was a pleasant few hours spent in the park. I recommend stopping by if you get the chance. A few of us will be there and we'll be meeting up back at the museum, plus we could use some help handing out flyers about Discovery Day to the crowd.



## The Wildman in the Historical Archives

Scott McClean was kind enough to search his files for an exciting California tale of yesteryear regarding bigfoot. This one comes from the San Diego region. And, as always, you can find Scott's articles posted on the internet at the [bigfootforums.com](http://bigfootforums.com) in the media section under "Amazing Historical Archives." He also sells a compilation of these archival newspaper articles in book and cd-rom formats at [www.mcclean.org](http://www.mcclean.org).

# The Helena Independent.

HELENA, MONTANA TERRITORY, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1876.

## THE MISSING LINK.

### Interview of a California Hunter with a Gorrilla-Like Wild Man.

A correspondent of the San Diego (Cal.) *Union* writes as follows concerning a "wild man" recently seen in the mountains in that county: "About ten days ago Turner Helm and myself were in the mountains about ten miles east of Warner's ranch on a prospecting tour, looking for the extension of a quartz lode which had been found by some parties some time before. When we were separated, about a half a mile apart—the wind blowing very hard at the time—Mr. Helm, who was walking along looking down at the ground, suddenly

#### HEARD SOMEBODY WHISTLE.

Looking up he saw 'something' sitting on a large boulder about fifteen or twenty paces from him. He supposed it to be some kind of an animal and immediately

came down on him with his needle gun. The object immediately rose to its feet and proved to be a man. This man appeared to be covered all over with coarse black hair, seemingly two or three inches long, like the hair of a bear; his beard and the hair of his head were long and thick; he was a man of medium size, and rather fine features—not at all like those of an Indian, but more like an American or Spaniard. They stood gazing at each other for a few moments when Mr. Helm spoke to

#### THE SINGULAR CREATURE

first in English, and then in Spanish, and then in Indian, but the man remained silent. He then advanced toward Mr. Helm, who not knowing what his intentions might be, again came down on him with the gun to keep him at a distance. The man at once stopped as though he knew there was danger. Mr. Helm called to me, when

#### THE WILD MAN

went over the hill and was soon out of sight and made good his escape. We had frequently before seen this man's tracks in that part of the mountains, but had supposed them to be tracks of an Indian. Mr. Helm is a man of unquestioned veracity.

## Museum Anecdotes

### Bigfoot Encounters and Stories Reported to the Museum

by Michael Rugg

I heard a bigfoot story recently through an unusual set of circumstances. I was contacted by a student staff member for an educational journal called *Western American Literature*. She was requesting permission to use an illustration from our web site to accompany an essay called "Imagining Bigfoot."

The illustration appears in a section called a "Hoaxers Hall of Infamy" on our web site, and was originally drawn back in 1987 for a little brochure I put together to take to a meeting of the International Society of Cryptozoology in Pullman, WA. The illustration is meant to poke fun at the films of Ivan Marx, as compared to the Patterson/Gimlin film. At any rate, I had some misgivings that the essay might be a bit "softie" in tone, and didn't want the art associated with a typical "hit" piece, putting the subject down.

Well in the course of our correspondence, the young woman assured me that the piece was about pop culture, but not pejorative in tone. She also reassured me that she's sympathetic to the cause of sasquatch research because there is a bigfoot event within her own family.

"According to family folklore, my step-father (in the early '80s) had a farm in Grace, ID. He tells us that it had been raining a lot that spring and the weather was weird because of the Mt. St. Helens eruptions (apparently a lot of narratives come from this period, right?). He went to his farm and a field he had recently plowed to prepare for planting had two sets of tracks: one large, one smaller. He believes these tracks were from a mother and child bigfoot pair as they walked through the field into the grove of trees on the side of the property. I believe him. I have actually used the track casts in presentations for folklore classes on Bigfoot narratives. All very interesting stuff."

I ended up giving permission to use the illustration, and I asked her if she has any photos of the tracks or trackway that she could share with the museum.

Another report came in from a local woman who heard screams early in April of this year. She said the calls started about 3:00 a.m. and woke up the entire neighborhood. The calls came in intervals of about 30 seconds. I played some recordings for her to compare, and she picked both the Klamath and Puyallup recordings as sounding the most like what she heard. She lives up the hill on a small private road about 200 yards past the road leading into Forest Lakes, the area from which we have had numerous reports in the last couple of months of screams in the night.

Another man reported a sighting that his friend had while picnicing near Lake Almanor in Westwood, CA. The man was looking over a steep bank down into a creek and saw one juvenile and two adult sasquatches pulling up wild onions at the edge of the bank. He said the sighting took place about 40 years ago, and that it appeared to be a nuclear family.

## BIGFOOTER'S DATES

### Bigfoot Discovery Day

June 30, 2007

Felton, CA – Santa Cruz, CA

Featuring a lecture by

Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Idaho State U.

"Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science"

Louden Nelson Center, Rm 3, S. Cruz

6:30 – 9:00 P.M. There will be a lunch event at the museum in Felton 11 - 2

To defray the expenses, the lecture/event will be \$10/adults, \$7/members, students, seniors and \$5/children.

### Squatch Fest 2007

July 28-29

Lexington, Ohio

for info email:

[usbigfootresearchassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:usbigfootresearchassociation@yahoo.com)

### Honobia Bigfoot Conference

Oct. 5-6

Kiamichi Mtn Mission Camp Grounds at

the intersection of the Indian Trail

Highway and State Highway 144

Honobia, OK

### Texas Bigfoot Conference

(P/G Film 40th anniversary)

Jefferson, TX

more details to follow as they are known

### 40th Anniversary International Bigfoot Symposium Oct. 20 - 21

Arcata, CA... more details as they're made available