



[www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com](http://www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com)

February 17, 2008 Volume 3 Number 10

**Message from the Curator**

Now that we have our first bit of potential “physical evidence” I felt inspired to share it here even though we have not yet determined exactly what it is. Our newest member, Matt, came in and donated a tooth to the museum collection. It appears to be an unusually large human molar with the enamel cap worn down to the pulp. About 1/3 of the tooth is missing, and both of the roots are broken off; one more so than the other. It appears to be old and fossilized and when I searched online for an image that matches there were only two that came close so far: one was a bear tooth, the other a Neanderthal tooth. He found the tooth in 2002 in Scotts Valley where people dig for shark’s teeth. It was laying on the ground in the woods above the sand cliff where people normally dig. So far I’ve sent an email to paleoanthropologist Dennis Etler asking him to stop by and take a look at it. He has not come in yet, although he said he would.



We’ve received quite a number of encounter stories since the museum opened three years ago. I receive reports on almost a weekly basis in the museum; it literally adds up to an average of a little over one story per week. I say “story” rather than “report” to differentiate between something we can follow-up on (report) and other anecdotes that cannot be further researched (stories). The situation here is such that sometimes I’m dealing with several visitors at once; hearing a story while ringing up a sale at the same time, for example. Frequently the visitor is hurried for time or being tugged on by companions or children and the story is truncated or sketchy. For these and various other reasons, including my own mistakes, I occasionally don’t catch their name and phone number, and/or the notes I took can’t be understood when I read them again months later. I’m working on making this happen less often, as some of the best stories I have are anonymous, although I did

look the person in the eye when hearing the story (except the time or two I’ve heard a story over the phone). So I’ll tell a couple of the most interesting stories first, followed by a couple of recent reports.

**Museum Stories**

Last year a man came in and reported that he’d seen a bigfoot while fishing for catfish with a friend, very early in the morning (it was dark). I’m not sure when or where the event occurred, and I can’t find my notes. I think it took place in an unlikely setting such as Arizona (?) in an area where there really were very few trees (no major forest nearby, just rocky crags near the water). They were in a boat equipped with a big spotlight mounted on a stand, in a creek 60-70 yards wide located in a rocky canyon, moored near an island covered with very tall bamboo-like reeds. As they sat there quietly they heard something stomping through the bamboo and could see the plants moving and bending as something loudly tore through the brush. They were following its progress with the spotlight when it suddenly burst out into the open and holding its hands in front of itself like a man would, dove off the bank into the creek and proceeded to swim freestyle across a 60 yard span, jumped out on the far bank and disappeared into a notch in the rocky canyon wall. He said they followed it with the spotlight all the way and just left the light on the spot where it slipped out of sight while they sat there looking at each other in disbelief and comparing impressions as to what it was they saw. After a couple of minutes passed the thing came back out from behind the rocks and stood right in the light, in a kind of defiant pose looking right at them with its head cocked sideways for a few seconds, then went back into the cleft in the rock wall. They never saw it again after that. It looked to them like a very big, hairy, man who could essentially swim like Weismuller’s Tarzan.

Spring 2007 (?) I was told about an incident that occurred up near the Avenue of the Giants (I can’t remember when, but I think within the last 10 years). A man and his friend stopped to do some fishing/hiking. The man wanted to fish all day, so his friend went off on a hike by himself. Late in the afternoon he wondered where his friend was as he had not yet returned...when he did show up he was all excited and said he had just hitch-hiked back from a frightening encounter. The two men jumped in the car and drove north on Hwy 101 to the place where the event occurred. The friend said he was walking on a trail, not far from the highway in among the first growth redwood when he became aware of something approaching, crashing through the brush like a freight train cutting a path as it went. I don’t remember if he actually saw it, but it definitely scared him severely as he got the impression it might be coming after him, so he ran to the highway and hitched a ride with the first car that came along to get away. They went to the spot where he had his experience and found the trail cut by the creature (broken limbs and small trees etc.) The trail curved further into the forest and then crossed a fire road or logging road where they found several giant naked footprints. They then contacted the local forest rangers and he claims two or three rangers appeared and actually poured plaster and cast 1-2 of the tracks. He said that a year or so later he returned to the area and approached a ranger he recognized from the event and asked him—in front of a number of other tourists—where the plaster casts were being exhibited. The ranger denied knowledge of the event, so he waited till he could talk to him privately and confronted him about his denial, saying he recognized him and knows he was there when the casts were made. The ranger confessed that his “boss” had told him that the incident was not to be publicized and that he was told to destroy the casts. “They didn’t want to scare away the tourists” was his explanation for the cover-up.

continued on page 4...

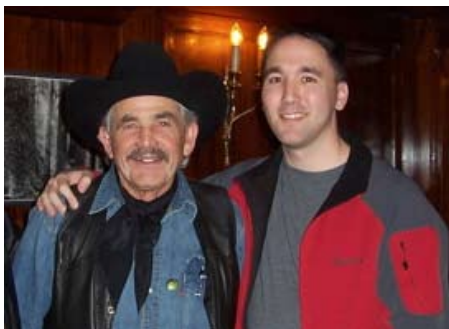


## Photos from the Sasquatch Event in Olympia, WA

We had a few friends attend the event on January 26, 2008 at the State Capital Museum in Olympia, WA. (See January 2008 newsletter for event info.) It was by all accounts a huge success and very well attended. In fact, dozens of people were turned away and others waited outside to get into the afternoon session.

The enthusiastic audience enjoyed a presentation about the Patterson-Gimlin film by Owen Caddy accompanied by Bob Gimlin, who took the time to answer questions from the audience. Richard Noll also shared the Skookum cast and presented about the events surrounding that discovery and subsequent analysis.

I can report that everyone was pleased to participate and attend. We want to thank Clifton Barnes, a BFRO investigator from Washington, for sharing his photos with us.



Clifton Barnes with Bob Gimlin

Links to audio of Bob Gimlin's Q&A session in Olympia, WA:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=zXoQbCbYtPU&feature=related>

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=s4yRuTdttk&feature=related>



Rick Noll, Owen Caddy and Bob Gimlin at the Capital Museum in Olympia, WA. Exhibit photos by Clifton Barnes.



Casts on display at the exhibit

## February Made Me Shiver...with Every Wood-Knock I Delivered...

by Tom Yamarone

It's been a slow news month in the bigfoot world, so I took a look back at the articles from the previous years around this time. There's a pattern there and for good reason if you were anywhere in California during January...burrrr. Lo and behold, the second week of February drops some Spring-like weather on us and we're going to try and get out near the coast. I'll let you know what happens next month. Moving on, there are a few things I can direct you to that you should enjoy.

The first is an audio archive of a blog-talk internet radio show from February 6, 2008. James "Bobo" Fay, Bart Cutino and I were guests on the "Let's Talk Bigfoot" show – produced by our very own Kathy Strain – and it turned out to be a very interesting hour. Bobo regaled us with his account of John Freitas' encounter during the Jeff Rense Show in 2002. (?) He and Bart also recalled their possible sighting utilizing thermal imaging units along the Smith River in Del Norte County, CA in November 2006. Bart also spoke about his sighting last summer

with the same imaging system and compared the subject to "Patty" from the P-G film. I closed out the show with a mini-medley of songs played live over the phone. We had some calls from our friends Scott McClean, Bob Strain and Brandon Kiel. Here's a link to the archive. There's plenty of good listening there as well with the other archived shows. That'll keep you going until the snow melts in the Sierras. <http://www.talkshoe.com/talkshoe/web/talkCast.jsp?masterId=30301&cmd=tc>



Bobo and Bart. Photo by Tom Yamarone



But seriously, let us know if you find anything interesting to share. Here's an interesting article about wildlife educator Larry Battson I thought you'd enjoy.

## Sasquatch expert says creature is alive and well in U.S. wilderness

**By Brent Frazee** (Reprinted courtesy of McClatchy-Tribune Information Services) Tuesday, January 29, 2008

But that doesn't bother him in the least. When you profess to believe in Bigfoot, that comes with the territory.

"When I used to talk about Bigfoot at sports shows, I'd have skeptics," said Battson, a nationally known educator on wildlife who was displaying rattlesnakes and other reptiles at the recent Kansas City, Mo., Sportshow.

"I'd have good old boys' come up and say, 'What are you trying to feed us?' But I'd always tell them: 'You believe what you want to believe. I'm convinced it exists.'"

He's convinced that secretive, mysterious, apelike creatures inhabit the deep forests of the United States. He and others describe them as 7 to 10 feet tall, weighing more than 500 pounds, with feet 20 to 25 inches long. They are covered in brown hair, walk on two feet and have a pronounced brow ridge, believers claim.

They are highly intelligent, keeping to themselves and offering only fleeting exposure to humans. That explains why they are so seldom seen and why scientific proof of their existence is so scarce, believers say.

But many, including the scientific community, remain unconvinced. If colonies of this Bigfoot creature do indeed exist, they say, get us the documentation.



view from the location of John Frietas and Bobo's encounter above the Klamath River.

There is a distant, grainy photo taken in 1967 by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin, who say they ran across the creature in a remote part of Northern California. But that's it. Since then, there have been proven hoaxes and much skepticism.

"In all the time I've been with the Conservation Department, I've never heard an agent talk about a Bigfoot sighting," said Brian Bartlett, a conservation agent with the Missouri Department of Conservation. "With all the hunters we have out in the woods and with all the trail cameras that are set out these days, you'd think someone would spot one if they do exist. But we've learned to never say never."

### Decades spent in pursuit

Battson has heard such skepticism before, but he remains undeterred.

He has been studying Bigfoot for about 30 years now, traveling the country to research alleged sightings.

He has taken molds of footprints, has audiotape of the sounds the creatures make, has read journals of families that had close encounters with them, and has mountains of testimony from people who claimed to have seen the primate. He spotted what may have been a Bigfoot, but he isn't certain.

One of those testimonies came from his wife, who spotted what she believed to be a Bigfoot in the headlights of her car as she returned to the Battsons' home in rural Indiana one night.

That sighting came as no surprise to her husband. There have been other alleged spottings in Putnam County, Ind., where the couple lives.

"These aren't just a few crackpots making up stories," said Battson, 55, who lives in Clinton Falls, Ind. "There are literally hundreds of people across the nation who have reported seeing Bigfoot. In fact, the only states where there haven't been sightings are Hawaii and Rhode Island."

Battson first became intrigued with Bigfoot when he talked with noted wildlife researcher Jim Fowler of the "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" TV show years ago.

Fowler was in Russia to tape footage of the brown bear, but all the guides wanted to talk about was Bigfoot.

"Jim said it was very convincing," Battson said. "These guides got a good look at this creature, and they were afraid of it."

Battson runs Battson Wildlife Educational Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about wildlife. He has a collection that includes everything from snakes and Gila monsters to tarantulas.

When he heard about this mysterious creature supposedly roaming the woods, it piqued his interest.

Battson began looking into reports of sightings and was intrigued by what he found.

The creature was mentioned in early American Indian writings and in the journal of explorer Daniel Boone. Even President Theodore Roosevelt related in one of his books an account of Idaho trappers' encounters with a Bigfoot. But the later accounts are just as fascinating to Battson.

He remembers one incident when a group reported being out searching for mushrooms when they heard some sounds in the brush. When the sounds grew louder, they made their way back to their vehicle. As they went to pull away, what they thought to be a Bigfoot pounced on the hood of their vehicle, made menacing sounds and then bounded off.

Perhaps the most memorable sighting Battson has investigated involved a family that was building a house in a remote area where Bigfoot creatures had allegedly been seen before.

"When the house was being built, something kept vandalizing it," he said. "At first, this man thought it was kids.

But one night he saw this big hairy creature out there on his land. He told me that it even came up and screamed in his window one time.

"Over time, I think things got better, and now they kind of coexist there. But that guy tells me he has his land lit up like Shea Stadium now."

Battson has read dozens of such accounts and has talked with many who said they had spotted Bigfoot. He has seen the footprints in the woods and the way tree limbs have been thrashed at a level higher than any other animal could reach.

That's enough to convince him this mysterious creature does indeed exist.

"People say, 'If this Bigfoot is out there, why don't we find carcasses in the woods?' But think about it. There are millions of animals out there, but how many times do we run across a carcass?"

"I believe that this creature is highly intelligent and able to sense danger. That's why we don't run across them that often. But I'm convinced they're out there."

Battson paused and added, "Either this is the greatest hoax ever pulled off, or there really is a Bigfoot."



### "It's Good to Hear From You! Call Me Anytime!"

One of the great things about the expeditions we've undertaken over the last three years is the people we have met in those areas. Not anyone specifically associated with the outing, but just some of the folks you tend to meet in a store, a restaurant or out in the woods. One such person stopped by to ask us what we were doing on Low Divide Road near Hiouchi, CA. We were call blasting in a light drizzle around 10 p.m. during the Redwoods expedition in November 2006, and we explained what we were hoping to hear or see and he said, "Good luck!" About an hour later, he was on his way home and he stopped again to warn us about a mountain lion he saw cross in front of his truck just down the road. Over the course of the next 45 minutes as we stood around his truck in the rain, he told us of the sighting he had on this road just a week earlier. I took down his email address at the end of the conversation and sent him a short message thanking him for his account and I included my contact information.

On January 14<sup>th</sup> this year, the phone rang and it was our friend from Low Divide Road calling to tell me of some incidents he had in early November and mid-December. He found my old email and gave me a call – and I'll tell you, that's one of the great aspects of talking to witnesses: it's inspiring. He works with Cal Fire in that area and was out with his son on ATVs inspecting an area for a fire reduction project. He was well in the

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

reduction project. He was well in the back-country north of the Smith River in the early afternoon, when a very loud howl emanated from the nearby forest. Both men are experienced woodsmen and both decided it was time to go. Neither had ever heard anything so loud and menacing and they got the message.

The second incident he recounted occurred around 9:30 p.m. at his home in the woods above Myrtle Creek, a tributary of the Smith River. He and his wife were reading in bed and a very similar scream came from the gully below their window. He said it was very similar to the call he had heard in November and thought it was worth reporting. It took him until the second week of January because that's how December is, right? Actually, he credits an episode of *Monster Quest* for spurring his recollection of these vocalizations and making the possible connection with a bigfoot. It was great to have these reports to add to the data from that area and also good to make contact with someone we'd met a year ago. I'll give him a call next time we're coming to that area, and I made sure to send him another email thanking him for the report.



### Good Places to Explore in the Area

In the early part of this year, it looks like the locations we'll explore will be along the northern coastal regions of California and possibly southern Oregon. I can't say exactly where we'll go – that will depend on several factors. (for example, the time allotted for the trip, any recent reports, historic reports, likely areas with respect to habitat and accessibility, etc.) I'll be sure to report on any place we go or things we happen to find.

I will say that if you have the time for some exploration in the Santa Cruz Mountains, I have several areas to recommend. The first would be the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. See if you can't get off trail along the creeks and look for sign or anything of interest. The access from Olive Springs Road and from Highland Way seems to be good and trails follow Hinkley Creek and Soquel Creek. Check out the state park map on-line you'll see these areas. You also won't be alone. We took a couple of days early last year to go here and there are plenty of mountain bikers, hikers and locals walking their dogs to keep you company. It will still be worth it and if you can get off the road a little, you'll enjoy some quiet moments, too.



Jaimie Jackson near Hinckley Ridge in Nisene Marks



Mark Stenberg with two expeditioners from Ontario, Canada call blasting in the drizzle on Low Divide Road, Nov.'06.

Another good location is the area between Big Basin, Portola and Butano State Parks. You can access these areas from the towns of Pescadero or Boulder Creek. Portola Redwoods State Park is located off of Skyline Blvd. south of La Honda, CA. Locate these parks on a map and you'll see they practically share a common border – and the Pescadero Creek drainage. The backcountry of Big Basin State Park can also be reached off of Highway 236 and China Grade Road. There is a gated dirt road there that leads down to parts of Butano Creek. Also, Waddell Creek off of Highway 1 is another good hike in to the part of Big Basin that includes Berry Creek Falls. If you happen to go, be prepared with a camera and a measuring device – and take some photos!

Happy exploring! As always, we welcome your photos and accounts for inclusion in the newsletter. If you have any questions about these areas, feel free to email me care of the Bigfoot Discovery Museum or call Michael during business hours at the museum (phone: 831-335-4478).



...continued from page 1

### Museum Report

1986 late Summer 1:00 a.m. at a beach on Half Moon Bay. Finishing a concert at Shoreline Amphitheater in Mt View (they were from Sacramento, CA) they decided to detour on the way home so they could see the ocean. They drove across Hwy 92 to Half Moon Bay and found a spot where they could park almost on the beach. There were a number of RVs parked nearby with people sleeping. They walked across the beach to wade in the surf, leaving the headlights of the car on to help them see where they were going; someone was asleep in the car while the rest looked for seashells. Shannon (12 at the time) went back up towards the car to get something and saw a dark hairy figure crouching in the darkness near the car. There was

ambient light from the car illuminating the side of the face. It appeared light gray in color, had a "high head" was bulky and appeared to be moving slightly. She wasn't exactly afraid, but did "freak out" a bit realizing this thing was watching them from the dark, and ran towards her Mom and sister, who were still at the water's edge. She told them what she had seen and her sister immediately reacted by giving her a hard time. At that point the flashlight they were using was starting to fade so they hurried back to the car and left without investigating the sighting further.

---Michael Rugg

### Monthly Meeting Schedule and Topics for 1st half of 2008

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, 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.

Memorial Day Parade – "Felton Remembers"

The museum will have a sales table in the park at the festival. If there's interest, we can have a BBQ at the museum later that day.

Saturday, **June 28**, 2008 (?)

The 2nd Annual Bigfoot Discovery Day

Details to be determined – please be there.