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Message from the Curator



Another view of the Pogonip "creature."
 This and masthead photo by "John Henry Camper"

Now that we're in the heart of Winter, bigfoot reports tend to slow down as most folks stay inside where it's warm and cozy rather than traipsing around out in the woods. So I thought I'd go back and look at the "Pogonip Bigfoot" incident again.

I first mentioned this back in the August issue, because that's when the event originally occurred (Vol3 No4). At that time I mentioned that on August 2, I received an email from an individual who called himself "John Henry Camper" and reported seeing a "large ape-like creature in Pogonips (sp) three weeks ago." He also stated that he had managed to take a few digital photos of the creature as he was running away in fright.

I responded that I would be very interested in seeing the photos, and he sent three attached to his next email. One photo appeared on the masthead of that issue, the other two photos are shown here on the masthead (top, right) and in column one (above). I also made mention at that time of the "streaker" who showed up at the Meldrum booksigning in a bigfoot

birthday suit (see column two, below) as our first official local hoax.

For a week or two after I wrote that article I had back and forth emails with "Jack." He promised to come into the museum as soon as possible to discuss the matter in person as he was interested in getting advice on what to do next, claiming a friend to whom he showed the photos told him they "looked phony." He assured me he had not doctored the photos in any way and that they represented the "creature" he observed on the outskirts of the City of Santa Cruz, just five miles south of our museum on Highway 9.

When I first received the photos I looked at them as suspicious, because they bore no resemblance to the P/G Bigfoot. Also I had noticed some similarity between the Pogonip creature and the streaker, below.



Bigfoot Discovery Day "streaker."
 photo by Tom Yamarone

But I didn't want to jump the skeptic gun as I have seen other purported bigfoot images that look somewhat similar to these, and I have heard accounts of bigfoot that are more human-like in size and proportions in other parts of the country.

He claimed to be looking online for ideas on how he might document or somehow prove the photos were genuine. I suggested that one thing that should be done would be to return to the spot where the photos were shot and try to do a reenactment," substituting a person of known girth and height to compare with the creature in his photos by matching up background elements as a key to the actual size of the "bigfoot." I did my best to show excitement and interest in his "sighting event" in an attempt to entice him to come in and meet me, or give me his phone number.

Because he seemed to be stalling and no meeting took place after several weeks I was moving ever more towards my initial impression that this was a hoax. I showed the photos to visitors to the museum, including a number of our members, and the concensus was to let it go, so I stopped emailing Jack and gave it up as bogus. Then, just before Thanksgiving I heard from him again:

Date: November 21, 2007 2:32:21 PM PST

Hi Mike

I was hoping to be able to stop by the museum this weekend since I have some time off of work. What are your holiday hours? I look forward to meeting with you.

Thanks

Jack

continued on page 4...

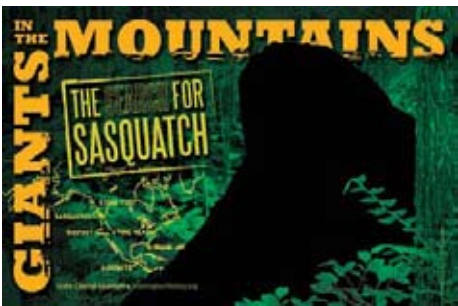
Looking Forward in 2008 - Keeping the Winter Bigfooting Juices Flowing by Tom Yamarone

January finds us starting a new year with renewed vigor and paging through our calendars to consider plans for the bigfooting year. Certainly there are a slew of outings ahead and some bigfoot gatherings in store for us here in California and elsewhere.

Right off the bat, there is an excellent event planned in Olympia, WA this month at the State Capitol Museum. A year-long exhibit opened there last October called "Giants in the Mountains: The Search for Sasquatch." The web-site advertises it as follows: "This exhibit explores the Sasquatch mystery and focuses on the Pacific Northwest environment, which has created a rich setting for the traditional beliefs that have grown up around these beings. Scientific explanations, hoaxes, and popular cultural interpretations about Bigfoot are tackled in this exhibit. Tribal artifacts and artwork as well as physical evidence collected in the field by anthropologist Dr. Grover Krantz will be on display. (Organized by the Washington State Historical Society.)"

This exhibit will be there through September 2008. It may be worth arranging a visit if you can also spend a few nights nearby on the Olympic Peninsula.

Next Saturday there will be a one-day event featuring Bob Gimlin, Richard Noll and Owen Caddy, as well as members of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization from Washington.



The Giants in the Mountains artwork is courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society, copyright 2006.

Here's the promotional information for this event:

Saturday, January 26, 2008, 10:00am to 12:00pm, and 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Bigfoot Expeditions: The Search for Sasquatch

Find out everything you ever wanted to know about the ongoing search for Sasquatch from some recognized leaders in the field. The program features presentations by Robert Gimlin, Richard Noll and Owen Caddy. Gimlin was with Roger Patterson when they shot the now-famous Patterson-Gimlin film-24 feet of color film showing a female Bigfoot walking along a sandy creek, filmed forty years ago in Bluff Creek in Northern California. It is now among the most famous evidence of the creature's existence.

Expedition partner and outfitter Gimlin will talk about his experience and the famous encounter on that trail. Noll, a longtime Bigfoot researcher, will talk about his work and the well-known Skookum cast. The cast was made from a partial body print found near Mt. St. Helens in 2000, believed to have been made by a living Sasquatch. A copy of the cast will be on display during Noll's presentation. Caddy will present "Digital Enhancement of the Patterson-Gimlin Film Subject." He will share the results of the film's digital enhancement, revealing for the first time many details of the film subject's face. All three speakers were featured in a recent Bigfoot episode of Monster Quest on the History Channel. Admission is FREE, with a suggested \$2 donation. Bigfoot Field Research Organization will host a tabletop display in the museum gallery. Members of the organization will talk about BFRO and the many Northwest expeditions they have led. Learn about field equipment including night vision cameras, bionic ears and camera traps. Ric Hjertberg of BFRO will speak about research techniques and upcoming expeditions in 2008

Here is a link to the featured exhibit:

<http://www.wshs.org/wscm/featured-exhibits.htm>

I sure would like to attend, but they could have held this event a couple of months later in the year.

Closer to home, we have announced a schedule for the monthly meetings here at the Bigfoot Discovery Museum. Those are always interesting and a great way to renew acquaintances. We will be looking forward to finding out about what's new at the museum, opportunities to volunteer and conduct research in the area and also enjoying a movie night with some classic



From the top: Bob Gimlin; Owen Caddy photos by Tom Yamarone.

Rick Noll with the Skookum cast at the 2006 Bigfoot Rendezvous in Pocatello, Idaho photo by David Ellis.

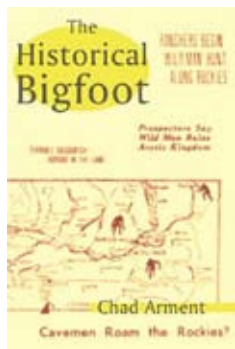
documentaries. This Spring we will also plan a group outing in the local mountains.

Hope you can join us for some of these meetings and activities. (see the meeting schedule in this newsletter and on-line at the website)

The BFRO is promoting a full-slate of expeditions for 2008, four of which are within reach of us here in Northern California. They are being organized by museum members Cliff Barackman and Brandon Keil. The first of these is this April in Mendocino County, followed in June by another to be held in Southern Oregon. An expedition in the Sierras is scheduled for August and the last one is in September and will take place in the Redwoods of Humboldt County. Check the website for more detailed information (www.bfro.net). These certainly will be in good locations and will offer you the chance to do a different level of bigfooting as opposed to just camping in the forest.



Winter Reading – Fact & Fiction



I have enjoyed a few books during the winter months and I'd like to recommend them to you. The first is Chad Arment's *The Historical Bigfoot* (Coachwhip Publications,

2006). It's very similar to Scott McClean's *Big News Prints*, although it does not include the actual articles like Scott's outstanding publication. There are some very interesting historical stories. There is one in particular that I found intriguing. It's set in Maine and comes from a book published in 1873 entitled *Camping Out* by Charles Asbury Stephens. The excerpt included in Arment's book is a chapter on the "Indian devil" Pomoola and the tale seems to reflect many of the stories in the book and also many eyewitness accounts of encounters with these creatures. The old woodsman Cluey describes to the boys he has taken out trapping a feeling of anxiety, as if they are being watched. He relates to them his account of an encounter from his youth. "I've been feeling for several days as if there was something, either man or beast, hanging 'round us here." Later he glimpses "what I took

to be a man standing at a little distance" when he goes to the stream for water at night. As they go to sleep, he hears footsteps circling them in a stealthy manner. He seizes an opportunity to position himself "crouched at the root of a fallen tree nearby" and is rewarded with this observation: "The form stepped into the moonlight a moment...and I distinctly saw its shape – the figure of a man, looking brown and naked, save where a hairy outline showed against the light. A feeling of sickness or horror came over me. The idea of using my gun did not even present itself." Yes, an exciting tale that includes screaming and tree snapping before it concludes. Fiction based on fact? I think so.



Speaking of bigfoot fiction, I truly enjoy the 3 books written by Lee Murphy in his crypto-based series including *Where Legends Roam* (the bigfoot story), *Naitaka* (featuring the Ogopogo lake creature in British Columbia, Canada) and *Heretofore: Unknown* – his latest publication set in the Honey Island Swamp in Louisiana. These are outstanding adult novels and interweave much of the current information about these cryptids into the storyline. I can't recommend these enough and they are available at the museum store and at Amazon.com. I hope to get around to bringing you more thorough reviews on all three. For information about Lee's books, go to www.kodiakbooks.com.

I have also read for a second time Robert Leiterman's *The Bigfoot Mystery: The Adventure Begins*. This is the first book in his bigfoot trilogy and these are geared towards a teen

audience, but I must say they are very enjoyable for bigfoot enthusiasts of all ages. Robert is a friend and acquaintance of quite a few museum members. He has attended a couple of monthly meetings and donated his books and an artistic representation of the Hairy Man pictograph to the museum. For those of you that don't know him, he is a career State Park Ranger who resides in Humboldt County and has been active in bigfoot research for the better part of a decade. He is a curator with the BFRO and an author of seven books topically connected to the environment. The three bigfoot stories are full of exciting storylines and interesting characters loosely based on his children.



The Bigfoot Mystery takes the reader on a journey of discovery for 2 teen boys after they have their own sighting while on a family trip to the redwoods. The boys and their

family explore the bigfoot mystery with local researchers and have some exciting times along the way. Robert is able to include what is currently known about the creatures in his story and many of the controversial aspects also addressed in the plot. This story will introduce the reader to all aspects of the bigfoot phenomenon and I especially enjoyed his personal insight with regards to field research. The books are imaginative and fun to read, especially if you have children interested in the subject.

Winter reading does seem to keep the spark going while the Sierras are snowbound and coast range out of reach after the holidays. Soon, the days will grow longer, the schedule will open up some weekend forays and there'll be more news to report. Until then, keep on the track and we'll see you around!



...continued from page 1

Wow, now I was starting to rethink my opinion... the guy's going to come in and speak to me eyeball to eyeball. Maybe he's legitimate afterall!

Well he never showed up and so I feel the time has come to officially declare this a hoax. But I don't think of this as a separate event from the "streaker," although I see it as an even more elaborate hoax than meets the eye.

To show what I mean, I took the streaker photo into Photoshop, removed the background so as to isolate the figure, then placed it on it's own layer in the working Photoshop file. On the layer below was the full

figure photo from "Jack." Next, I scaled the streaker down to the same relative size as Pogonip, adjusted the color to match, and BINGO, I think I've successfully proven the two images show the same bigfoot suit.

The main difference being that they had at least a month to perfect the suit, and apparently they teased the hair to make it less combed looking, and fixed the gap on the sleeve at the wrist. I suspect the guy who held the camera was the original streaker, and he got someone more zoftig to don the garb, so the "bigfoot" would "fill out" the costume better!

-- Michael Rugg



The Pogonip Bigfoot side-by-side with the Bigfoot Discovery Day streaker, composited in Photoshop. Photoshop composite by Mike Rugg

PALEOANTHROPOLOGY

Human Family Tree Now a Tangled, Messy Bush

By Meredith F. Small, LiveScience's Human Nature Columnist

For anthropology students 30 years ago, learning human evolution was a breeze. It went from Australopithecus to Homo habilis to Homo erectus to various Homo sapiens. It was a straight shot that one could learn in a few minutes late at night while cramming for an exam.

But in the late 1970s, we entered a golden age of human fossil discoveries that has repeatedly punched holes in the naive idea that our evolution would be that clear, clean, and straight.

Like most animals, humans have a checkered past, and our family album is now full of side branches and dead ends. And it's populated with creatures, such as the little people (*Homo floresiensis*) of Flores Island in

Indonesia, that we could never have imagined in our wildest dreams.

The straight line has blossomed into a spreading, rather uncontrolled bush and we don't like it. We want our history to be nice and neat, but the fossils keep messing us up.

This summer, scientists announced the discovery of two human fossils found in Kenya in 2000. One is a 1.44 million-year-old *Homo habilis*, the first member of our genus, and the other is a 1.55 million-year-old *Homo erectus*, a larger brained, much more sophisticated kind of human.

Although paleoanthropologists have assumed that *habilis* evolved into *erectus*, it looks like these creatures spent time together on the shores of Lake Tanganika.

The big news, then, is that these very different fossils are being hung on the human family tree on separate branches but at the same height. And once

again, we have to reconsider the path of human evolution.

But should we be all that surprised?

We want the first bipedal humans to stay out of the trees, but their curved hand bones suggest they spent time swinging in the canopy like apes; we want brain size to increase in lock step with tool use, but tools appear before big brains; we want an orderly diaspora out of Africa and across the globe by culturally armed early humans, but it looks like people kept leaving all the time in fits and starts that don't correlate with anything; and we want the last 200,000 years of human evolution, the time when modern *Homo sapiens* appeared, to make some kind of sense, but it doesn't.

We are, after all, animals that have experienced the quixotic touch of evolution by natural selection, and that's anything but an orderly process.

Our past is just as messy as any animal that's been around for millions of years, and we should be prepared to expect the unexpected when the next fossil is announced.



Monthly Meeting Schedule and Topics for 1st half of 2008

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

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 BBQ 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.