



www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

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Message from the Curator

Now that we've experienced both the best of the bigfoot world and the worst within the same week, all I can say is "Whew!" It's been a very busy time here in bigfootland.

Bigfoot Discovery Day II was a very successful event and one heck of a great party. What a wonderful way to launch the Bigfoot Resort... filling the place with famous bigfooters for a weekend. We had the cabin bedrooms occupied by guest speakers, Many California bigfooters camped on the grounds, and Bob Gimlin sleeping on the deck! Cliff Barackman, a BFRO expedition leader, slept right next to the river near the "bigfoot nest" we created there.

Jeff Meldrum was still here on the following Tuesday after the event (Aug 12) as was Jim "Bobo" Fay when the news of the Georgia Bigfoot "body" broke. The three of us were at the museum when Bobo received a call from Matt MoneyMaker (founder of the BFRO), and we all discussed the likelihood that the Georgia boys were pulling a hoax. Later that afternoon I dropped Jeff Meldrum at the San Jose Airport and he started preparing a statement for the press on a plane heading back to Idaho. In case you've been out of touch, Tom Biscardi bought into the hoax with a press conference in Palo Alto on August 15. There is an account of the goings on at the press conference and subsequent aspects of the hoax on our website, but I will sum it up later in this issue.

Tom Yamarone has a great article and photo essay on Bigfoot Discovery Day

II in this issue, so I'll just stick to the job of thanking all the folks who helped us make it happen:

Scott McClean, Jeff Eltringham, Tom Yamarone, Lance McVay, Tom Cousino, Ralph Jack, Matt Bento, Jim Duffy, Mike Barrow, Mellow Russell, Colton Jack, Joyce Kearney, Bill Tucker, Bart Cutino, Mark Stenberg, Cliff Barackman, Bob Strain, Todd Hale, Joan McVay, Gabbie McVay, Terry Smith, Sandra Maisel, Brandon Kiel, Jerry Hein, Jessica Yarr and Dan Norvelle.

Thanks to the following for donated items: Chris Murphy, Eric Altman, Lee Murphy. Bravo to you all for helping to make it a memorable event.

And a special thank you to Dave Paulides of NABS, who cosponsored the event at the Felton Community Hall.



The Georgia Bigfoot Hoax

There was a surprising amount of bigfoot awareness generated by the Georgia bigfoot hoax, so here's a summary timeline to bring you all up to date (paraphrased from www.crypto-mundo.com):

June 10 - a bigfoot body is allegedly discovered by Matt Whitton and Rick Dyer in northern Georgia. Dyer later tells Steve Kulls on his Internet radio show that it took them a day and a half to carry it out with six men. According to their story, Whitton sat with the body overnight while Dyer went to get the help. They further claimed that on their way out of the woods, they were followed by several other bigfoot creatures, which they managed to film. Kulls will introduce the pair to Tom Biscardi.



Bigfooters arriving at the Discovery Museum on Friday afternoon, August 8, 2008 (Tom Yamarone)



June 16 - Someone registers the domain name "bigfoottracker.com" and Steve Kulls claims it is Matt Whitton and Rick Dyers who have created the site.

June mid-late - Videos begin to appear on YouTube. In one or more of these videos, it is claimed that an associate of theirs (described as "a felon") killed the Bigfoot with a 30.06. This person is not named.

July 3 - Matthew Whitton is wounded in the wrist while allegedly struggling with a robbery suspect in Clayton County, GA

July 4-5 - Whitton is given heroic media coverage and placed on medical leave by the Clayton County Police Department.

July 9 - Whitton states on a YouTube video that they've recovered a Bigfoot "corpse." Whitton is released from the hospital after being shot.

July - mid month - Videos continue to be posted on YouTube. Many of these videos begin to have a derogatory slant in regard to other Bigfoot researchers. Matt MoneyMaker, Loren Coleman, and Jeff Meldrum are frequent targets.

July 23 - Two news stories appear in the Clayton County Daily News about the alleged body; Whitton and Dyer hold a press conference for local media, trying to drum up interest in their story.



July 25 - Steve Kulls issues a "challenge" to Whitton and Dyer to come on his Internet radio show.

July 28 - Rick Dyer appears on Steve Kulls' radio show. During the show, he gives a description of the body that includes a height of eight feet, eight inches, and the fact that, if you were to shave the creature and put a hat on it, you would not be able to distinguish it from a human being. During the show, Dyer says the pair would welcome only three Bigfoot researchers to their location - Steve Kulls, Tom Biscardi, and another individual (CH). Dyer says that the evidence they have will be revealed on September 1, 2008.



The Bigfoot costume they used for the hoax

August 1 - Allegedly the date on which Biscardi flies to Georgia to obtain the tissue sample for DNA testing.

August 11 - Biscardi forwards Kulls an email from Dr. Curt Nelson stating the DNA amplification size was consistent with human/ape and was going to be sequenced. Dyer (and Whitton?) post a YouTube video with a flash of a black and white image of the "body in the box," picture of Biscardi near the freezer, and text noting they are working with Biscardi now. Dyer and Whitton claim to have passed DNA on to Biscardi.

August 14 - William Wald Lett Jr. of Eaton, Indiana, says he met Matt Whitton and Rick Dyer in the Clayton County (GA) Justice Center parking lot. The two men signed a "transfer release agreement" to sell the frozen remains of Bigfoot. Lett said he handed over \$50,000 in cash. Lett said he then followed the two men to a house on nearby Poston Road, where another person was "standing guard" over a freezer that held the alleged remains. Lett said the freezer containing a frozen, furry "carcass", which weighed almost a ton, was loaded onto a trailer towed by his GMC Yukon Denali. Lett and Biscardi associates then drove it back to Indiana.

August 15 - "Bigfoot Friday" Biscardi, Whitton, and Dyer hold a press conference in Palo Alto, California. The DNA results that are "released" and "read" by Biscardi are inconclusive and confusing, while the two pictures released do not show anything compelling either.

Kulls arrives at the Indianapolis airport at 4:10PM EST. Kulls is driven to location in Indiana, outside of Muncie in a rural community.

August 16 - In Indiana, through the use of heaters, the ice around the "body" melts to where Kulls takes a hair sample, burns it and it balls up like as an artificial fiber might. Johnson, Biscardi's son, and JavaBob begin to speed-thaw the ice using a salamander or turbo heater, and eventually pull a rubber foot out. Biscardi is called, told about the find.

Biscardi allegedly calls Kulls (two of the crew and investor are not present at the time) and he allegedly tells Kulls that he wants to fill the freezer up with water, freeze it, and release it back to Whitton & Dyer. Kulls recalls that Biscardi said that then Whitton and Dyer would make a statement that the public pressure was too much on them and they took their body back. Biscardi would then place a gag order on it, and never speak of it again. Kulls says he staunchly objects and would not participate in it.

Next, Kulls says he talks with Whitton to return the money. Whitton states they don't have it and they only want to deal with Biscardi. Biscardi calls Kulls back

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Bigfoot reserchers at the Bigfoot Resort on Friday , August 8 (photo by Tom Yamarone)

Bigfooters Descend on Felton For Bigfoot Discovery Day II - Event Fills Community Hall

by Tom Yamarone



Michael Rugg and Cliff Barackman (T. Yamarone)

For a second year in a row, the crowds turned out for the Bigfoot Discovery Day activities and lecture event. A very successful weekend at the museum was highlighted by the notable bigfooters in attendance and the time we had to spend with them all. This year featured more presentations and included talks by Dr. Jeff Meldrum, Kathy Moskowitz

Strain, Richard Noll and David Paulides. Oh, yeah, and there were bigfoot songs, too. We had a very special guest with us – namely, Bob Gimlin from Yakima, Washington. For those who have had the opportunity to meet Mr. Gimlin, they



Bob Gimlin and Jeff Meldrum at the Resort (Tom Cousino)

are impressed with his sincerity, enthusiasm and genuine interest in this bigfoot mystery – not merely the fact that he accompanied Roger Patterson on that historic day in 1967.

Some of my fellow researchers in California are friends with Bob Gimlin, so it was also a bit of a reunion, too. James “Bobo” Fay

accompanied Bob and I to the event from Eureka, CA, Bob Strain was here with Kathy from Jamestown, CA, Scott McClean traveled from Southern California, Bart Cutino came up from Monterey, Cliff Barackman joined us from Portland, OR and Mark Stenberg from Martinez, CA. And speaking of friends, crypto-author Lee Murphy and his brother Jay attended from the



Paula Yarr and “Lurch” at the Resort (M. Rugg)



Tom Yamarone, Jay and Lee Murphy (M. Rugg)

Los Angeles area, Craig Woolheater and Monica Rawlins (of the Texas Bigfoot Research Conservancy) came all the way from Dallas, and Terry Smith, museum associate and expedition partner, drove up from LA as well. Other notable researchers in



Bob Gmlin, Tom, Bob Strain and Rick Noll (M. Rugg)

attendance included Joyce Kearney from San Francisco and Daniel Perez, author of several bigfoot publications and the publisher of the *Bigfoot Times* newsletter. For all the reasons we enjoy attending these annual conferences, this year's event was

outstanding especially since we were also able to gather at the newly opened Bigfoot Resort. That allowed all of our local researchers and friends from the area to be together with our guests in a comfortable setting in the Great Room, on the deck and around the grounds..



Fun around the campfire (T. Yamarone)

I'll try and recap the weekend's events starting with the dinner on Friday evening that was a pot-luck with museum members, bigfooters and the participants in the conference. For the most part, I hope my photographs and others will tell the story of the weekend as a photo essay as well.



Maryann Hucklebridge, Richard Huckelbridge, Terry Smith, Jim Sorenson, Bobo Fay, Greg Rose, Juaquin Rose, Bob Gimlin and Colton Jack inside the Bigfoot Resort (M. Rugg)



Daniel Perez, Bart Cutino, Bob Gimlin and Jim Duffy (T.Yamarone)

Friday, August 8, 2008 – the Rendezvous at the Museum and Dinner at the Bigfoot Resort. Let's get this party started!



Ralph Jack and Bob Gimlin (T. Cousino)

Just like last year, there was an impromptu gathering at the museum before it closed at 6 p.m. It's the perfect spot for a rendezvous for those who've made it to town prior to the dinner at the Bigfoot Resort. We moved on down to the house and enjoyed a wonderful dinner and an evening of bigfoot talk and merriment. This was originally planned as an event for museum members, the speakers. This year we invited other bigfooters who happened to be in the area. We enjoyed a campfire after dinner and it was great getting to see good friends again.

**Bigfoot Discovery Day II –
Saturday August 9, 2008
The Bigfoot Barbeque and
Book Signing**



Jessica Yarr at the barbeque (T. Yamarone)

A multitude of museum members pitched in bringing drinks, setting up the barbeque and generally hosting a slew of visitors at the museum.



Cliff, Bart and Jeff (T. Yamarone)

You've never seen the place as busy as it is during this event. People are spread out at tables on both sides of the building and there's bigfoot talk going on in every corner.



Colton helping to sell bigfoot collectibles (T. Yamarone)

All of the authors were present and book sales were brisk. I would say that over \$3,500 was spent on books

alone – quite a phenomenal figure for this size of event! And it didn't hurt that all of the books were in high demand as two of them were just published by Hancock House.

Family and friends passed the time enjoying a simple lunch of burgers and brats and then it was time to get ready for the evening event.



Joan and Lance McVay at the photo booth and Bill Tucker (M Rugg)

**Bigfoot Discovery Day II –
the evening conference at the
Felton Community Hall.**



Tom Yamarone plays us in (John Douglas)

It's a scramble to get the hall ready for 170 people in less than 30 minutes, but that's just what we did. And it's not a quick process to get everyone admitted to the venue, but with minutes to spare, we began the event at 6:00 p.m. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the footprint cast displayed around the world in 1958, I played the song "Jerry Crew (He Knew What To Do) written by myself and James "Bobo" Fay.



Mike Rugg introduces the speakers (John Douglas)

Michael Rugg then took to the podium with an inspired welcome and a speech that pointed out the epic nature of the event. He singled out the special guests we had in the house including Bob Gimlin, Craig Woolheater, Monica Rawlins, Jeff Meldrum, Rick Noll, Kathy Moskowitz Strain, David Paulides and Daniel Perez. Yeah, that's a line-up worthy of some attention!

He introduced Kathy Moskowitz Strain who presented material about bigfoot in Native American culture. She has researched this material from various original texts over the last few years and published her findings in the newly released book *Giants, Cannibals and Monsters: Bigfoot in Native Culture* (Hancock House, 2008). She shared with us photographs and slides to accompany the stories and legends from various tribes throughout this region. She also played a video that was recorded in the Bluff Creek, CA area in 2006 of a Karuk medicine man



Kathy Moskowitz Strain with John Douglas showing Kathy's book. (John Douglas)

singing a bigfoot song about the headwaters of Blue Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River. Her presentation was an excellent prelude to the contemporary accounts presented by the next guest.



Dave Paulides delivers his talk (T. Yamarone)

David Paulides has also recently authored a book on bigfoot and is the director of the North American Bigfoot Search organization. His tome *The Hoopa Project* (Hancock House, 2008) presents accounts of bigfoot activity from the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in Humboldt County, California. This is a unique project in that he was able to befriend the community there and garner accounts that are typically not told to “outsiders.” His presentation provided an overview of how and why he chose this particular location for his research and then detailed his methodology. He then provided details about several of the accounts from his book. David enlisted the skills of a renowned police sketch artist from Oklahoma – in fact, the artist is also the assistant director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation! Many of the depictions of the creatures seen by the Hoopa residents reveal very human-like facial features. This is one of the surprises you will find in his book.



Bob Gimlin mixing with the people in the audience during a break (M. Rugg)

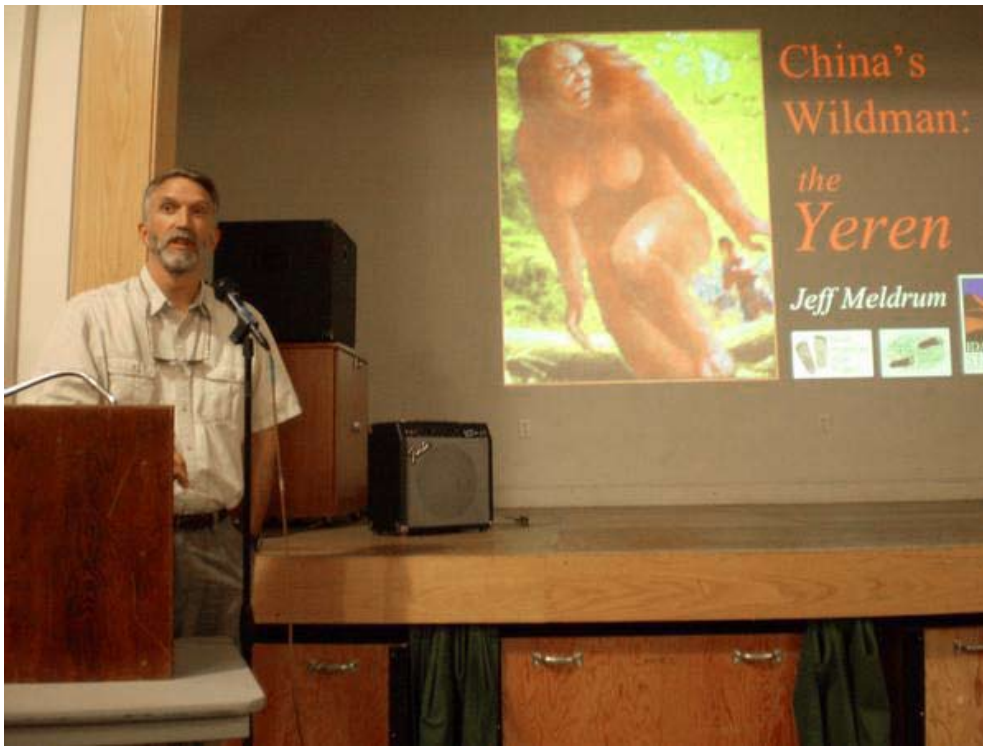
We took a long break which allowed the people in attendance to visit the various tables set up in the hall with merchandise for sale. Did I mention that the event sold out again this year filling the Felton Community Hall with over 170 people? That’s an impressive turn-out for the area. Those who came were certainly impressed with the bigfoot community present that evening – especially our good friend and bigfoot legend, Bob Gimlin.

Richard Noll (we know him as “Rick”) was next to speak. His presentation was a delightful and knowledgeable overview of bigfoot research. Rick spoke from experience when he detailed how research has evolved over the course of the last 30 years and he put together an excellent slide presentation – often eliciting laughter from the crowd with his humorous take on what we know about these creatures. (For example, they have an awful smell was accompanied by a photo of a forest latrine! You had to be there! Rick was delivering the goods!) And as with previous times I’ve heard him speak, he is a wealth of information regarding field research. He shared with us his experiences from his research area in Washington.

To conclude the event, Bob Gimlin took the podium for a few minutes to express his gratitude to all who attended and all who are conducting



Richard Noll speaks on his research techniques (John Douglas)



Jeff Meldrum speaks on his trip to China for MonsterQuest to look into the Yeren (John Douglas)

research. His commentary was heartfelt; his presence was much appreciated and those who had the opportunity to speak with him that day were left with an indelible impression of the man's sincerity and genuine interest in this subject. He came all the way from Yakima, WA to be here at his own expense – and having him at the museum and the event certainly “made it” for everyone present.

Dr. Jeff Meldrum delivered the final presentation and he never fails to impress as a public speaker. His demeanor and thoughtful approach to the subject certainly only bolster his academic credentials. He is the “professor” of bigfoot and doesn't put on airs when he explains the evidence in a manner that is clear and concise. I'm certainly biased in my review of anything he does from his outstanding book *Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science* (a Forge book, 2006) to his participation in

many of the current television documentaries. On this occasion he shared with us behind the scenes material for an up-coming episode of *MonsterQuest*, the History Channel's hit series. He traveled to China to search for evidence of the bigfoot-like creature they know as the yeren. He and the crew were accompanied by long-time Chinese hominid researchers and we got a glimpse into the “bigfoot world” over in central China. It was amazing to see the regions where they traveled and the extensive mountain ranges and forests in central China. He shared with us several footprint casts and photos of recent eyewitnesses. The area they visited is a nature preserve and rarely visited by tourists. In fact, the only access to the preserve is by bus. It was a fascinating glimpse into his recent travels and the making of the *MonsterQuest* episode. He also touched on several other bigfoot research topics including the Patterson-Gimlin film.

After the event, many of us retired to the Bigfoot Resort for a final celebration of the weekend. Bigfoot Discovery Day II was a huge success as an event, but for many of us it will be remembered for the people that were there. James “Bobo” Fay summed it up saying, “It was very entertaining!” We'll remember the friends, acquaintances and colleagues we got to spend time with in a beautiful, relaxed setting. That's what makes it successful in my eyes – getting to touch base with those of us who are researching this subject and getting to meet others new to search. We have a common goal of attempting to collect evidence that will solve this mystery and bring these creatures from the realm of “mysterious” to the realm of “acceptance” in the zoological catalogue. I'll leave you on this note: If you're getting this newsletter and you haven't made it to Bigfoot Discovery Day I or II, please make every effort to get here next year! For all the fun and interesting activities we have at the monthly meetings, the Bigfoot Discovery Weekends and the Felton Remembers Parade, this is the one day at the museum you don't want to miss!



Rick Noll and Mike at the Bigfoot Resort (T. Yamarone)



Curator's Message

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and claims that Whitton & Dyer will sign a promissory note and a confession the next morning before they leave for home. Kulls says he drew up the documents.



Matt Whitton & Rick Dyer at the Press Conference

August 17 - Whitton and Dyer left before their scheduled meeting with Biscardi. Biscardi wants press there to expose it as a hoax, but no one in the press wants to let him on the air. Kulls remains in Indiana, and is asked to prepare a statement.



Tom Biscardi shows photo of the "tongue and teeth"

August 18 - Kulls' *Squatchdetective Radio* promises an "important statement," and keeps listeners waiting for him to announce the hoax at 10:10 PM. He times it to be broadcast after the footage of the rubber feet and costume being thawed out of the ice being broadcast by a local Fox News television station in Indiana. Kulls is evasive in his answers, and his connection to Biscardi.

August 18 - Matt Whitton and Rick Dyer appear on WSB-TV and admit their roles in the hoax.

August 19 - Matt Whitton, 28, is fired after six years with the department because of his involvement in the hoax,

police Chief Jeff Turner says. Dyer, 31, worked at three state prisons, according to Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council records. However, he now drives a truck for Big Foot Towing Co. and sells used cars over the Internet.

August 19 - Morning news on Fox and other media outlets tell of the hoax.

August 20 - Whitton and Dyer state that Biscardi and Kulls coached them. Kulls issues a statement denying the coaching, and coming clean about the above July-August involvements.



Biscardi showing a still from the alleged video

August 21 - William Wald Lett Jr. of Eaton, Indiana, files a formal legal complaint with Clayton County, GA police. Lett said he brokered and videotaped the transaction on behalf of Tom Biscardi, who promised Lett that he'd repay the loan at 50 percent interest, \$75,000 due within 90 days. Lett said he has tried without success to contact Whitton and Dyer to get his money back.

Recently the two hoaxers have reinvented their website and are apparently attempting to profit from their "celebrité." They claim to have an upcoming DVD called "Bigfoot Doesn't Live" a satire based on Biscardi's DVD called "Bigfoot Lives."



Local Fieldwork

We have been out in the field a few times during the last couple of weeks in response to reports made to the museum by locals. Jim Duffy, Daniel Perez and I went to meet with a man in Boulder Creek who believes he's hearing bigfoot talk near his cabin late at night.



Ralph at the end of Love Creek Road

Ralph Jack and I went to the end of Love Creek Road in Ben Lomond on a tip from a phone caller named "Sanborn."

Daniel Perez and I drove to the end of a mountain road after dark where there have been multiple reports of sightings and vocalizations, near Nisene Marks Forest. We returned to the area a few days ago with Ralph and a local man named Rich and heard a very eerie, very loud and drawn out scream. More to follow.

--Michael Rugg



The area off Trout Gulch Road we investigated



BIGFOOTER'S DATES

East Coast Bigfoot Conference 2008

September 27, 2008

11 am - 7 pm

Pitzer's Townhouse Restaurant

101 S. 5th St.

Jeannette, PA 15644

www.pabigfootsociety.com

Texas Bigfoot Conference

October 18, 2008

9 am - 6 pm

Jefferson, TX

www.texasbigfoot.org