

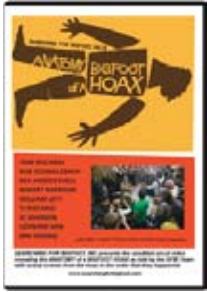


Our own Ralph Jack with the two Georgia hoaxers

www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

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Message from the Curator



Now that I've agreed to market a DVD offered by Tom Biscardi, many in the bigfoot community who know me and have visited our museum, are wondering how I could do such a thing. That's

because most of my fellow bigfoot researchers are convinced that Biscardi, who has been accused of deliberate hoaxing numerous times, is guilty as charged. Well I, for one, do not prescribe to "kangaroo courts." As the curator of a Bigfoot Museum I feel obliged to document and study all aspects of the bigfoot phenomenon with as much agnosticism and even-handedness as possible. That means maintaining a neutral position in an attempt to offer the public reasonable and unbiased facts about bigfoot while trying to derive a consensus description of bigfoot behavior based primarily on the findings of the people who research it. By the same token I also attempt to recognize those who are "in the trenches" doing the best they can to collect evidence that Bigfoot exists.



As curator of the museum I was asked for my reaction to the claims of the Georgia men.



The view from Biscardi's side of the room full of reporters.

As I see it, there's way too much infighting and accusing going on amongst the bigfoot community at the present time. I'm beginning to wonder if there is a "community" as such, because the only thing that we all have in common is a conviction that



Some web companies saw an opportunity for promotion.

people do indeed see or otherwise experience what is described as an upright hair covered primate from time to time. But that's apparently where the COMMON part ends, as every other research group seems to claim "they're the best," and now it seems popular for younger seekers to personally attack elder members of the research community on the basis of rumors and innuendo derived from overzealous "brainstorming" and

arguments that beg the question. Before the advent of the Internet, the kind of accusations being thrown around today would have been labeled libel or slander. Sure, the old-time researchers also squabbled with each other, but only a handful of people ever knew about it back in the days before bulletin boards, online forums and blogs that are available for all the world to see.

And where is a view offered to the public by the research groups that will convince them that all bigfoot experiencers are NOT fools and liars? Nowhere, unless you visit only one bigfoot website, and accept it as the only TRUE website. If you seek additional information elsewhere you're



This is the bowel sample that was delivered to Curt Nelson for DNA testing. The preliminary result is shown below.

tombiscardiassoc@comcast.net

From: <nelsco015@umn.edu>
 To: <tombiscardiassoc@comcast.net>
 Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2008 5:17 PM
 Subject: status summary

Tom, a brief summary of my preliminary results so far:

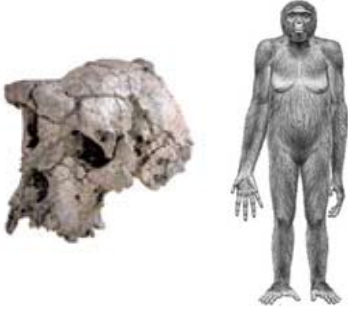
The DNA was probed with three sets of primers for mitochondrial DNA sequence shared by humans and chimpanzees. Two of the primer pairs produced DNA fragments of the same size as human/chimps, the third pair failed to produce anything - probably just a technical failure.

The two fragments produced will next be sequenced and compared to other known sequences to determine whether or not they are unique. In other words, the testing is going fine, nothing to get excited about yet, we may have some sequence to look at in a week or so.

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'ARDI,' OLDEST HUMAN ANCESTOR, UNVEILED

by Jennifer Viegas | Thu Oct 01, 2009



This is a drawing of what *Ardipithecus ramidus* ("Ardi") likely looked like. The 4.4 million-year-old hominid opens up a new chapter on human evolution because, as the lead researcher says, "it is as close as we have ever come to finding the last common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans." J.H. Matternes/Science/AAAS

The world's oldest and most complete skeleton of a potential human ancestor -- named "Ardi," short for *Ardipithecus ramidus* -- has been unveiled by an international team of 47 researchers. Their unprecedented, 17-year investigation of Ardi is detailed in a special issue of the journal *Science*.

The 4.4 million-year-old hominid opens up a new chapter on human evolution because "it is as close as we have ever come to finding the last common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans," project co-director Tim White told *Discovery News*. "This is not an ordinary fossil," added White, a paleontologist in the University of California at Berkeley's Human Evolution Research Center. "It's not a chimp. It's not a human." Instead, he said, "It shows us what we used to be."

Placement on the Human History Timeline

The actual last common ancestor of chimps and humans probably lived between five and 10 million years ago, based on genetic and other estimates, so Ardi falls somewhere between this still unknown species and "Lucy," the famous 3.2 million-year-old "ape-man" hominid, also found in Ethiopia, belonging to the genus *Australopithecus*.

"If you dig up in younger time horizons at the site where *Ardipithecus* was found you have *Australopithecus*, so we feel that we

are in a position to say that *Ardipithecus* may have given rise to *Australopithecus*, which in turn gave rise to *Homo (sapiens)*," White said.

Ardi, who was a female, may or may not have had any direct descendants. Her species may have given rise to Lucy's species, *Australopithecus*.

Bones Reveal Appearance and Behavior

Gen Suwa, one of the project's paleoanthropologists, spotted the very first *Ardipithecus* fossil in 1992 while conducting a foot survey in the Afar Rift in northeastern Ethiopia. Since that time, a total of 110 specimens representing a minimum of 36 different individuals of Ardi's species have been found within a sediment layer at the site that was precisely dated using multiple established techniques.

Ardi is the most complete of these individuals, as the skeleton includes her skull, teeth, arms, hands, pelvis, legs and feet. Based on these findings, the researchers know that she and others in her species were both **tree- and land-dwelling omnivores**. They had a relatively small, chimp-sized brain, long arms and short legs.

The scientists suspect Ardi used simple tools, such as twigs and leaves, but no stone tools were found at the dig site.

"Believe me, we've looked for them," said White, who added that the earliest known stone tools date to 2.6 million years ago.

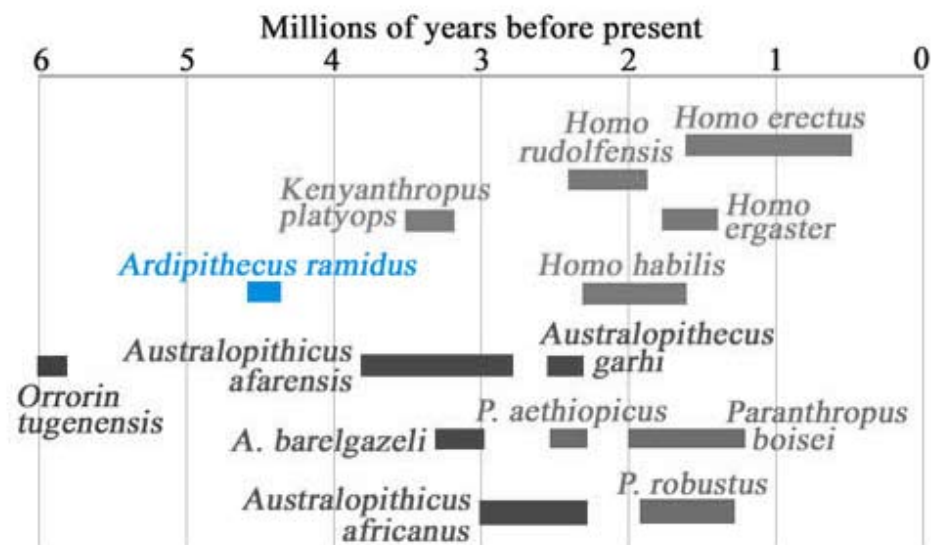
The First Key Differences Between Hominids and Apes

Ardi could climb trees, using lengthy fingers and big toes for grasping, but she could also walk on the ground on two feet. Detecting that latter ability was critical for the scientists, as it appears two key features distinguished the very first hominid from other apes: **walking with two feet on the ground and a reduction in the size of the canine teeth**. Both of these characteristics provide clues as to what might have caused the last common ancestor to diverge from other apes.

The Making of Families, Not War

"We now believe that social, instead of environmental, change, led to the species division," White explained. "Natural selection involves reproductive success, so Professor Owen Lovejoy of the project suspects that *Ardipithecus* males were probably pair-bonded to specific females, and may have aided them by gathering and carrying foods."

Such provisioning by males would have favored those males who could best walk on two feet, according to the researchers,



allowing them free hands for carrying food. Provisioned females could have "intensified their parenting" and carried their infants, which is easier to do in woodland environments when the forelimbs are free.

The reduction in canine teeth, which Lovejoy called "weapons of aggression," further suggests that *Ardipithecus* males were not as physically hostile with each other as larger-canined chimpanzees are today.

Myth Busted: Humans Never Evolved From Chimpanzees

Although chimpanzees remain our closest living primate relatives, there is now no evidence that *Homo sapiens* somehow evolved from chimpanzee-like individuals, losing chimp characteristics over time. Instead, after the chimp/hominid split, the two groups appear to have gone their separate evolutionary ways, developing the unique traits seen in each today.

Alan Walker, a professor of biological anthropology at Pennsylvania State University who did not work on the project, said that the *Ardipithecus* fossils "tell us that the anatomy of closely related living species cannot predict the anatomy of their ancestors very accurately."

Walker said, "It now seems, from the analyses carried out by the discoverers and their colleagues, that the last common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans was much less chimpanzee-like than previously thought." He concluded that the unveiling of the new hominid "is certain to cause considerable rethinking of not only our evolutionary past, but also that of our living relatives the great apes."



Some potential bigfoot reports from 2009

A **scoutmaster** from San Rafael described ongoing events over a period of years starting when he was about 7 years old.

He claimed ongoing contact with a nuclear family of three individuals, adult male (up to 12' tall) female and juvenile.

Fall 2006 according to an anonymous post online a family of 4 hikers, a couple of mountain bikers and two biology students all reported seeing a bigfoot in Cowell Park (we're still seeking the source of this tale.)

Fall 2007 two brothers near Boulder Creek Country Club reported hearing a strange yelping sound on Hwy 236; they ran towards it with a flashlight and caught a glimpse of a hair covered primate leg and foot in the light.

Winter 2007 a man was driving along Hwy 236 looking for snow, and glancing at his rear view mirror saw a big hairy man step out from behind a tree and cross the road behind him.

Spring 2009 A local resident reported she heard nocturnal screams of immense volume for three nights in a row after a 4-month lull in activity. She said they came back after one of the last storms of the year.

Spring 2009 A woman reported the existence of a "corral" made from woven tree limbs in the forest between Highway 9 and Empire Grade south of the museum just a couple of miles. She claims it is some 35' in diameter.

July 2009 a man visiting a friend at a BBQ on King's Road in Boulder Creek reported being stalked by a bipedal walker that sort of growled, at 2:00 am. We have a resident from that area who is convinced there is a "band" of them that go through the neighborhood in the wee hours of the morning. He thinks the alpha male of the group calls them back into the woods by imitating a rooster.

September 2009 near the Boulder Creek Country Club on Bloom Grade a young man reported dogs barking at a loud howling cry associated with a particularly foul odor; also it was noted that around the same time apples were disappearing over night.

October 31, 2009 Aptos A couple moved to Aptos near Nisene Marks from Orange County in May 2009. They immediately started hearing rumbling sounds and their dogs were acting up--anxious but submissive. She saw a silhouette figure she thought might be a homeless person. Later a sleeping nest was discovered in the back part of their property in tall grass. They assumed it was all the work of a homeless person until they heard siren like screams in the night (11:45pm-1:30 am) They are convinced now that there was a bigfoot sleeping in the backyard.

October 2009 A man in Zayante reported a 7' tall prowler in his back yard at 2:30 am. Ralph & Mike staked out the area the next night and recorded strange vocalizations at 1:30 am that resemble screaming humans and coyotes.



BIGFOOTER'S DATES

Ohio Bigfoot Conference
May 14-16, 2010
Salt Fork Lodge

14th 6:00 Dinner; Meet & Greet
15th 4:00-10:00 p.m. Presentations
16th 12:00 Noon guided Tour
Participants to date:
Todd Neiss, Rob McConnell, Tom Yamarone & Bob Gimlin
\$5 admission
eobic@yahoo.com

Oregon Sasquatch Symposium
June 19-20, 2010
Lane Community College
Eugene, OR

Autumn Williams
Cliff Barackman
David Rodriguez
Thom Powell
Jeff Meldrum
Kathy Strain
Ron Morehead
Scott Nelson
Sali Shepard-Wolford
Jaime Avalos
Dave Paulides

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likely to run across statements condemning the last site you visited as inferior or untrue. We don't agree on anything ourselves, so WHY SHOULD THEY BELIEVE OR TRUST ANY OF US. (THEY being the public at large) This kind of online bickering must please the heck out of the skeptics. Hey fellow bigfooters, lets stop airing our dirty laundry for all to see, and agree to disagree without "dissing" each other. OK?



The corpse being prepped for the late-night meeting with Biscardi.

You see, the great unwashed masses (skeptics and true agnostics) don't really know WHO TO TRUST, you only *think they do*. When any one of "us" (proponents) gets proven false by the media, we ALL suffer. But if we can't forgive our own for mistakes made along the way, nor agree on *anything* as genuine evidence, how can we expect the public to take us seriously?

Let's see, yesterday I checked in at a couple of bigfoot blogs and forums and I saw some pretty harsh indictments against Tom Biscardi. Because of his connection with the Georgia Gorilla Hoax, he is at present the most infamous of all bigfooters in the eyes of his peers. And yet I also found some amazingly mean-spirited and inflammatory remarks about John Green and Bob Gimlin as well-- two men who up until recently were universally



The Georgia location where the freezer exchange took place.

respected and revered by EVERYBODY in the research community. What's going on people? Can't we be civil? What happened to "innocent until proven guilty," for example? What happened to the good old "golden rule"? What about "if you can't say something nice, say nothing at all." Are these age-old values completely gone in the year 2010?

Do you remember EB? (He whose name shall not be mentioned.) He was once at the top of the Hall of Infamy among most bigfooters. Why? Because of the way he treated others, via ruthless ad hominem attacks, stalking, and other vindictive conduct, most of which was done online. I believe he was the first to denigrate other researchers on his website and forum, and relentlessly accuse them of wrongdoing.



The "safe house" in Indiana where the "body" was defrosted and dissected.

He was sure that bigfoot is "paranormal," and wouldn't take *maybe* for an answer. Many people asked me why I "allowed" EB to become a member of our museum, and let him attend our meetings. Some asked because of his theories, and others asked because of his reputation. My answer is that I wanted it clear that as the curator of a museum dedicated to educating the public, I cannot refuse to recognize a fellow member of the research community just because he misbehaves online or is disliked. EB told me that "controversy sells" and that's largely why he acted the way he did. (In person he tended to be calm and relatively well-behaved-- but many people ASSUMED he'd act out because of his online presence and reputation.)

Like him or not, EB had been around for many years investigating all aspects of the paranormal, and in many ways became a legend in his own time. To be "fair and balanced" his views should have no

bearing on his right to be recognized by our museum, especially as a veteran member of the research community. When he acted out towards me, I "turned the other cheek" and did my best to remain neutral and not retaliate. Even when he tried to interrupt our first Discovery Day, then "crashed" the party at my house afterward, I looked the other way and let him mingle.

On the other hand, a few months before he died I finally did ban him from membership, when he jeopardized the safety of a bigfoot believer while "on expedition" and under rather despicable circumstances left a woman stranded alone on foot in the woods (then bragged about it online.) At that point I was forced, as the leader of our museum and study group, to sanction him for misconduct, in deference to the consensus of other members who feared for the museum's reputation. This was all about common courtesy and civilized conduct, and not about his belief in the paranormal nor even his negative online invectives.

Likewise I was forced to ask MK Davis not to appear as a speaker at Discovery Day II when he began making inflammatory claims about Bob Gimlin, insinuating that he was a liar. Because Gimlin was very well respected by all our members, and was coming as an honored guest to our event, I had to ask MK not to appear. When I did so I apologized and explained that in deference to our special guest and because of a consensus of our membership, it was best for all parties involved to avoid an uncomfortable and potentially volatile situation. Once again, this was a decision based on the principles of democratic fair play and civility rather than a difference in opinion about bigfoot. MK was very gentlemanly about it and said he was going to suggest it himself.

I wish this kind of thing would stop. We need to learn mutual respect and try to give our fellow bigfooters the benefit of the doubt. Don't forget, to an awful lot of people ALL bigfooters are nutcases. We need to stick together and present a united front against the naysayers and critics of cryptoprimateology if we're ever to gain the respect required to generate funding for the research.

--Michael Rugg

