



Bob, Craig, Marcy, Montra, Kathy, John

www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

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Message from the Curator

Now that I've fallen behind on the newsletter for the second time, I want to apologize to those of you who actually go to your mailbox in anticipation, with the expectation of timely delivery. I have been preoccupied with the contract artwork I'm doing; the deadline is the end of this month so things will get back to status quo soon and I'll get things back on schedule. Happily, I'm earning some money to pay the bills but things are still happening and progressing on the bigfoot front. As Tom's article on the next few pages will show, things have been "jumpin'" around here.

We've had visitors who are very well known among bigfooters, and we are preparing for our first **"Bigfoot Discovery Day."** This is an all-day event that will be heavily advertised, that we hope will bring press attention and help to put our museum "on the map" so to speak in the eyes of the public. Eventually we want this to grow into a full-on conference or symposium, but for now we are thinking in terms of a single day featuring a bigfoot "celebrity." For our inaugural event we've invited the most visible academic from the bigfoot research community—Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Anatomy from Idaho State University.

We have arranged to have him fly out here to give a lecture on his research and spend a day or so with us at the museum! We're very excited about this and want very much to get the local academic community to take notice. He will be with us on the June 29th and 30th. We are paying all his expenses for the trip, and hope to recoup some of the costs by charging admission to the lecture, and having other things going on such as the sale of snacks and drinks during times when we are "socializing." We also hope that many of our local members will help in the publicity, and help us make the day a memorable one for all who attend. The outcome of this event will tell us a lot about what we might expect from future events of this type, so let's make it the best yet!



Yesterday I spoke with a bigfoot/UFO researcher from Colorado named Joe Fex. He has been to the Carter farm in Tennessee and experienced bigfoot in the woods near there himself. He said he has an old photograph that establishes the existence of bigfoot in that part of Tennessee from early in the 19th century. I gave him the lowdown on our museum and he agreed to send copies of some of his photo discoveries.



We have also been active in the field following up on some alleged bigfoot sightings from up in San Mateo County. A woman reported seeing a 9' tall bigfoot leap across an 18' wide creek. Then another report came in about a bicyclist spotting a white bigfoot on the outskirts of Santa Cruz near Wilder Ranch. I went to the spot and found a very marshy area right on the edge of town that fit the description he provided. A short while back I spoke with a woman who has property on Swanton Road above Santa Cruz, who reported a "very strange, feral goat that looked in her kitchen window one night." The goat had to be very tall to pull that off, and the property behind her house is undeveloped forestland owned by Big Creek Lumber. The San Mateo coastal mountains are starting to look like a very likely bigfoot habitat. We will be checking into the details of these stories, and will let you know, when possible, what we find out.



Now for a report on the on-going exploits of "world famous Thomas Biscardi." Biscardi now has an internet radio show every Weds. evening. Last week he had a three hour long broadcast featuring Greg Long, Bob Heironimus and Philip Morris, who claim the PG Film is a fake; and M.K. Davis with Pat Holdbrook, who feel they have proof it's real. Long wrote a book claiming Patterson and Gimlin hoaxed the film; Heironimus claims he wore the costume that Morris claims he made and sold to Patterson.

I won't attempt to go into all the contradictions in the stories these guys tell or the details of how they've been changing their stories over time to better match up with the facts, but I will mention the lie detector test they spoke about.

First, I should mention that M.K. Davis has been working with the PG film for about a decade utilizing imaging software—used by astronomers—to enhance photos. Pat Holdbrook recently made a documentary film based on Davis' work, proclaiming Patty to be real. (The DVD will be available in the museum soon.) So Biscardi had these two groups bumping heads in a heated debate.

Long pointed out that Heironimus passed two lie detector tests. Davis suggested that certain pathological liars are able to pass lie detector tests, especially when they've been telling a particular lie for a long time. Long called Roger Patterson a "sociopath" who was dishonest and therefore not above hoaxing a bigfoot. Then Chris Murphy, author of *Meet the Sasquatch* called in and gave all the specifics of the time Roger Patterson took a lie detector test and also passed it.

This debate continued, surprisingly with Biscardi asking the most direct and useful questions of the skeptics. Other "PG Film experts" they interviewed were obviously sadly lacking the background knowledge to be asking the "tough" questions of the naysayers. Long and his companions all expressed their doubts about the existence of bigfoot, which I guess, explains their unabashed attempt to turn people against the film and the men who made it.

The broadcast was occasionally interrupted for an "over-the-top" promo ad for Biscardi's pay-to-play expedition at the end of the month in Paris, TX. In the promo he proclaims their confidence that they're feeling good about their chances of catching a bigfoot this time, since they're taping the whole event as a pilot for a reality TV show.

Do you think he'll get lucky, or will it turn out like Geraldo's Al Capone caper? And what will the repercussions be in terms of other researchers seeking credibility?

-- Michael Rugg



Bigfooters Gather for Special Meeting at Bigfoot Discovery Museum March 3, 2007

It was an especially lovely day on Saturday, March 3rd as the museum hosted several out-of-town bigfooters for a special monthly meeting. Craig Woolheater, founder of the Texas Bigfoot Conservancy (formerly the Texas Bigfoot Research Center) was in the area on vacation and made arrangements to meet up with Bob and Kathy Strain and John and Montra Freitas – all well known figures in the bigfoot community.

We met for lunch in Felton, CA with Michael Rugg and Paula Yarr and then reconvened at the museum for the meeting. On several other occasions, notable bigfooters had stopped by unannounced to visit the museum, but this was an inaugural event of sorts. I never did ask each one directly, but I'm guessing they were impressed by the collection, the artifact displays and happy to see the museum in person. Kathy and Bob are long-time members, but this was their first visit to the site. John and Montra are associate members since last March when they visited the museum to meet with a British comedian to film a bigfoot segment for a television show.

After an hour of visiting, chatting and taking pictures, we began the meeting in the side yard. Mellow Russell was kind enough to oversee the museum during the meeting and a small, yet dedicated group of members was present including Lance McVay, Mike Barrow, Bart Cutino, Ralph and Colton, Greg Rose and his bouncing bigfooting son, Joaquin! Craig's wife Marcy was there, as well as their friends Patrick and Mitchell

from Guerneville, CA and Kathy's sons Zachary and Jacob.

Mike introduced the guests and the newsletters were distributed. Several comments were made in jest about the photo of Bart and myself out in Big Basin Redwoods State Park late one night. Bart is holding the baseball bat we use for wood-knocking and the comments were along the lines of what Bart was going to do to me with the bat! Everyone enjoys starting the meeting with a fresh newsletter! There were some questions and overall excitement about the up-coming **Bigfoot Discovery Day** featuring Dr. Jeff Meldrum. Mike, Lance and I answered some questions about what we hoped to accomplish with the event. There will be more about this later in the newsletter. Reviewing the most recent copy of the newsletter is a nice way to spur discussion, but today we had plenty of guests to share some bigfoot news and stories with us.

Craig Woolheater began by telling us of a recent call-blasting expedition they had with 25 people participating. They were call-blasting from three boats on the Natchez River and had observers in stationary camps along the river as well. This was in January 2007 and he didn't mention any results – he did say it was very cold out there! He then mentioned a remote camera study that they are implementing in several national forests and preserves in Texas and some state parks in Oklahoma. In fact, we were all surprised to hear that the Texas Bigfoot Conservancy (www.texasbigfoot.com) applied for and received a 5 year permit from the park authorities to conduct bigfoot studies on federal land! He explained how the application process was bolstered by having a university affiliated professor on-board. Chris Bader, author of *Strange Northwest* (Hancock House Publishers), is also a professor at Baylor University. He is a sociology professor and is doing a study of people who research bigfoot. The Texas Bigfoot Conservancy is the subject of his sociology study and not only did he garner them the federal permit but they are also receiving funding for

research from Baylor University. They were able to obtain additional cameras bringing the total number in use to 40. This was quite a pleasant surprise to hear of this symbiotic arrangement!

He told us that digital game cameras are in place in very remote areas and that it takes project members a couple of days to access and service the cameras – that is, checking the digital memory cards for any hits and changing the batteries. He said the batteries have been lasting up to 4 weeks which is outstanding! There haven't been any bigfoot photos to date, but several large black bears were photographed in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, he also described the destruction of a video camera that was housed in a plastic camera trap – all caught on camera by the nearby game cam. They are in the process of up-grading to bear proof housing for all their cameras. He also stated that Dr. Duane Schmitter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – who is in charge of rare and endangered species – has publicly stated that they would accept photographic and/or video evidence to prove the existence of this species if they could be assured that it had not been tampered or manipulated in any way. Bob asked Craig if he thought the Texas group's museum exhibit at the University of Texas at San Antonio last year had any effect getting Baylor University involved in their research. He said that he did meet and discuss research with Chris Bader at one of those events last year. The discussion then turned to whether or not they have any outings planned for this year. He stated that they were going to proceed with the remote camera study and not send teams out near them. The group discussed the possibility that perhaps having researchers with cameras in the area as a second stage to the project. This was a very informative and eye-opening discussion with Craig!



John Freitas, a long-time bigfoot researcher and a museum member, was next to address the meeting. Many of us know John from his appearance in several bigfoot documentaries, his website www.bluenorth.com and his innovative call blasting techniques. He was also the organizer of several Night Scream outings in the late 1990s and early 2000s where he guided large groups of people out into the wilderness near the California-Oregon border. These resulted in several exciting encounters for the participants and are documented in journal form on his website. He ultimately produced a documentary available on DVD entitled Night Scream in 2005. It is available at the museum and on John's website as well. John explained the set-up he uses for call blasting. He was asked how many watts his call blast set-up utilizes. He said it was approximately 100 watts and that he has a new speaker system on the way. He said he has heard his set-up blasting around a mountain 2 ½ miles away!

John recounted an encounter he had in the Humboldt County region a few years ago. Those of us familiar with the bigfoot lore know this as the Jeff Rense show event – an exciting encounter captured on radio as John was being interviewed from a remote location in the hills above Redwood National Park. He was in a convertible and in radio contact with museum member Bobo and another guy named Manny who was operating the call blaster from a nearby hillside. He moved to get better reception on his phone as he was about to go “live” on the radio and was positioned next to a thick growth of trees. At some point during the interview, a very large animal began menacing John with growls and brush snapping from just to the right of his vehicle. At first he thought it was a bear charging him and stopping short and he was asking Bobo on the radio if he could see the animal. Bobo, who was utilizing a night vision device, did not see a bear but rather, he did see a large, upright creature observing John over a broken tree.

One funny aspect of the encounter was recalled by John. He had instructed Manny to do a call blast if he signaled him by illuminating the brake lights. Well, several times during the incident, John would inadvertently step on the brakes and Manny would let loose with a very loud call blast that did not seem to frighten the animal or cause it to leave the area. He said this went against what is commonly thought to be the case – that call blasting at close range would have the effect of driving the creature away.

Or that one should call blast and wait a given period of time for a response. In this instance, that was not what happened. It remained nearby and continued to make noise and thrash the brush near John's car despite the frequent use of the call-blaster. It was all very dramatic over the radio as this played out live on the air.

They later measured the stump at 6 feet tall and Bobo could clearly see the outline of the chest, shoulders and head above the stump! Bart interjected that we had been taken to the site in 2005 and had seen the stump – it was that tall! John told us that his theory on call blasting is that you can make all the noise you want. He thinks the creatures that do respond or approach you are exhibiting curiosity and in this case, he speculates that if this indeed was a sasquatch, it was very curious as to why this person was alone in their vehicle talking while illuminated by the cell phone. I asked what time this occurred. He said he was on the radio at 9:00 p.m. and the incident started around 9:10 and lasted until the end of the show at 10:00 p.m. You can read John's account at the following page on his website. There is also a link to the archived radio segment on this page. (www.bluenorth.com/Johnsonroad.htm) Ralph asked him some questions about how he chooses a call-blast location. John said he looks for a location that allows him to broadcast the calls over a valley or canyon and he also stations people below him and above him to observe anything that may attempt to sneak up on the site of the call blasting. The group continued to discuss call blasting and some of the scenarios that could arise – like inadvertently call blasting the unsuspecting camper or hiker. He said he has had people whistle back and even shoot in their direction in response to the call blasting. Mike then pointed out that John was one of the first to expose the “Sonoma Video” of 2005 as a hoax. Take that Penn & Teller!

Kathy Strain (formerly Kathy Moskowitz) was the last of our guests to address the meeting. She is known for her research into



the Hairy Man pictograph on the Tule River Indian Reservation east of Fresno, CA and has been writing a book that compiles hundreds of Native American stories about bigfoot and other bigfoot-like entities. She is also the Chairperson of the Executive Committee for the Alliance of Independent Bigfoot Researchers (AIBR) – a non-profit organization founded in 2005 to facilitate the sharing of information among independent bigfoot researchers and local organizations. Her husband Bob Strain and myself are also on the Board of Directors of the AIBR. She told us about the group's structure, mission and goals for the up-coming year. One of the main functions of the group is to provide scientific analysis of potential bigfoot evidence. She said they have analyzed several recordings that were made in the field and identified them as common animals. She said the group has an extensive collection of common animal recordings available at their website, www.bigfootresearch.com. She said they also have a very rare recording of a female mountain lion in heat.

They plan on holding outings that will be free to the public for interested parties to come and learn scientific techniques for identifying and documenting bigfoot evidence. I wrote about their first outing like this in the very first issue of the newsletter two years ago. Operation Odyssey was held in the Plumas National Forest in April 2004. They hope to have several outings this summer in various parts of the country sponsored by the AIBR.

Greg asked her what types of animal recordings they have received and Kathy said they have been coyotes. And she stated that they don't just tell the person that it's a

coyote, but they explain why it's a coyote – so, there's an educational aspect in providing these answers to field researchers. Greg then asked what have some of the purported bigfoot photos turned out to be? Kathy answered that most have been tree stumps with unusual shapes. She said most people don't notice that they have anything in the photograph until they review their pictures. Bart explained how he had a similar experience with a video he shot at the location of John's experience. There was a shadow that appeared as a figure moving when he panned the camera around the area. After thorough review and sharing the clip with others, it was determined to just be a shadow. Kathy mentioned how people do get excited by these possible photos and sounds, but their goal is to provide scientific analysis of the photos and recordings. To date, no bigfoot photos or recordings have been received by the AIBR. They welcome any and all bigfoot reports, possible photographs and recordings and ask they be submitted to their website (www.bigfootresearch.com) or the group's toll free phone number: 1-866-415-AIBR (2427).

The Marysville, CA tracks story was brought up and several people at the meeting were unaware of it. I was the actual investigator for the BFRO on this case and it involved a man whose friend found a series of alleged bigfoot tracks while hunting in October 2006 in the Plumas National Forest near Woodleaf, CA. He returned to the location with his friend and photographed many of the footprints and they made a cast of one of them. He reported this to the BFRO in mid-January 2007 and subsequently submitted the photographs for analysis. We shared them with Rick Noll and Dr. Jeff Meldrum as well as BFRO members Cliff Barackman, Bart Cutino, Kevin Withers and James "Bobo" Fay. There were several



Greg and Joaquin



Mike B, Bart and Lance

aspects to the prints that raised some red flags – sharp edges to the side of the footprint and heel being one of them. Both Rick Noll and Dr. Meldrum pointed this out and some other things and Dr. Meldrum was of the opinion that these tracks were fabricated – a hoax. The BFRO relayed this information to the witness and decided that we would not publicly call these fake tracks as we didn't get to see them in person. We took the approach that we were unable to make a determination based solely on the photographs.

The BFRO witness' friend was contacted by the CBS television affiliate in Sacramento, CA and they both participated in a segment that reported the track discovery and was broadcast on February 26, 2007. This caused some excitement in the bigfoot community but that has since died down when many people realized it was not a recent discovery but rather 4 months old. Craig, John and Kathy were of the opinion that I should make a public statement about our findings on the tracks, but we decided as a group that we would not disagree publicly with the witness if he did not accept our opinion because we want to be "witness friendly" in order to not discourage future report submissions. You can see the report by going to www.CBS13.com and searching for "bigfoot" in their search engine. The report is entitled *Is Bigfoot Living in the Forest Above Marysville?* I can state that this case is also under investigation by Daniel Perez, long-time bigfooter and publisher of the Bigfoot Times newsletter.

The meeting discussion was always very relaxed and genial and members frequently asked questions of our guests. We were grateful to have the opportunity to hear from Craig, John and Kathy as they are long-time bigfoot researchers – and good friends! This was truly a special occasion for the Bigfoot

Discovery Museum and a wonderful exchange among friends, researchers and museum members. A DVD of the meeting will be available for viewing at the museum.



Bigfoot Discovery Day

June 30, 2007

Felton, CA – Santa Cruz, CA

Featuring a lecture by

Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Idaho State Univ.

"Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science"

Louden Nelson Center, Santa Cruz

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

We are planning the first HUGE event for the Bigfoot Discovery Museum and want to let the membership know what is scheduled as of this date. We have arranged for Dr. Jeff Meldrum to come to the area on the weekend of June 30, 2007 and he will be presenting a lecture to the public on various aspects of his research and the evidence for the existence of bigfoot. He has recently authored a book by the same title, *Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science* (Forge Books, 2006) and will be there to answer questions, sign books and even sell copies of some footprint casts. The event will take place at the Loudon Nelson center in Santa Cruz, CA and will begin with an overview of the Bigfoot Discovery Project by Michael Rugg. I may also perform some bigfoot songs as well and we are scheduling more than an hour after the lecture for a social gathering to meet and greet Dr. Meldrum and other distinguished visitors.

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

We are also planning to have a lunch event at the museum that day and possibly some other activities on Friday evening. It is a very exciting proposition for the museum. We hope to garner recognition and focus attention on the research efforts of the project. Details regarding lodging and specific events for Friday and Saturday are still in the works and we will keep you informed when we make the official announcement in the near future. This will be a landmark event for the Bigfoot Discovery Museum – we hope you can mark that date and join us for this bigfoot weekend! We will also be asking museum members to help with the publicity (posting flyers) and with the activities associated with the day's events. Thank you in advance! We are grateful for such an active and helpful membership!

--Tom Yamarone